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THIRTY TWO YEARS  
OF THE LIFE  
OF AN  
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THIRTY-TWO YEARS  
OF THE  
LIFE OF  
AN ADVENTURER.

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED BY  
JOHN H. DRAKE,  
WILLIAMSBURGH, L. I.

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## PREFACE.

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THE writer of this little work, in presenting it for the inspection of the public, does not deem it necessary to weary the patience of the reader by a lengthy preface ; nor would he offer any apology for writing, as his motives are simply to benefit the rising generation. The character set forth, stands out in bold relief, before an assembled universe, as a faithful exhibition of fallen man, presenting to the mind of the reader a life as checkered and various as the wind, and with as many points as the mariner's compass. He commences the work by a brief sketch of the father of the individual of whom he is writing ; and then, in a plain and simple manner, he gives the reader a faithful account of thirty-two years of the life of an adventurer ; which, he trusts, may serve as a beacon-light to warn youth of approaching danger, and be the means of piloting his frail bark over the ocean of life, and at last, of his safe arrival into that haven of rest where he shall no longer be subjected to trials, storms, and tempests, which may have beat upon him here, and where every tear shall be wiped from the eye, and he be permitted, throughout eternity, to bask under the effulgent beams of the radiant countenance of the Captain of his salvation.

In view of the talent and skill necessary for successful authorship, in this age of book-making, he, as a matter

of course—as this is his first attempt—has sufficient cause to ask that some indulgence should be granted him, especially by the critical reader of the following pages. Faults in the style, no doubt, exist; but, it is hoped, there is nothing to prevent a ready and clear apprehension of the author's sentiments and objects. And when this warm heart shall cease to beat, and the mind to sympathise with the unfortunate and down trodden, may this little work be handed down from generation to generation, until the destroying angel shall stand with one foot upon the earth and another upon the sea, and with the voice of a trumpet shall declare, As the Lord liveth, time shall be no more: all of which is respectfully submitted by the humble author,

JOHN H. DRAKE.

WILLIAMSBURGH,  
July 1st, 1847.

THIRTY-TWO YEARS  
OF THE  
LIFE OF AN ADVENTURER.

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I WAS born in the city of New York, October 11th, 1814. My father, for several years previous to this time, commanded a vessel sailing out of that port to various parts of England and Ireland, until the war broke out between the United States of America and Great Britain. His vessel was captured, and himself and crew were made prisoners and confined on board a British man-of-war about seven months ; submitting to treatment, during a portion of that time, the most painful and degrading. But being a man of strong mind and active disposition, my father bore his sufferings with manly fortitude, until himself and crew were exchanged for English prisoners. On their way to the United States, they were recaptured by an English vessel ; and while at anchor off the eastern coast of North Carolina, he and another brave spirit, at the hazard of their

lives, let themselves down by the sides of the ship into a small boat, and made their way for the shore, which was a few hundred yards distance. Their attempted escape being discovered on board, a volley of musketry was fired after them, but without taking effect. At length they again succeeded in landing upon the shore of their beloved country. Without money or food, and with clothing barely sufficient to cover their nakedness, they set out for the port of Norfolk, a distance of several hundred miles through the woods. Subsisting all the time on nuts and acorns, with the cold, damp earth for their bed, and the canopy of the heavens for their covering, at length, after seven days of suffering and toil, they arrived at their destined port, and took passage on board a vessel bound for New York, where, after a few days' sail, they arrived in safety. Immediately on their arrival, notwithstanding their previous deprivations and sufferings, stung by the wrongs of themselves and their beloved country, they entered the Sea Fencible service, where they remained during the war, with honor to themselves, to their country, and to their posterity.

At the close of the war, my parents removed with their family to Tompkinsville, Staten Island,



where nothing remarkable occurred until about one year after our removal. While I was playing one day in front of our house, I came in contact with a huge bear, which had been brought from on board a vessel, and chained close to the door. On approaching his bearship, he seated himself upon the ground, caught me up in his fore paws, and gave me such a loving squeeze, that the effect had well nigh terminated my existence before my mother made the discovery. Her screams brought to my rescue the keeper of the bear, who succeeded in saving my life.

At the age of five years I commenced my studies at school. Being fond of books, I made rapid progress in my juvenile studies, and soon began to entwine myself round the heart of my fond mother, and became the hope of an indulgent father.

Nothing remarkable occurred until I had arrived at the age of ten years, or thereabouts. My father happening to be absent from home on business in city, during the winter, about midnight, a gentleman residing about half a mile from my father's house, arose from his bed and looked out of the window, in the direction of our domicile, and discovered a great light. He immedi-

ately slipped on his clothes, and repaired to the spot. On his arrival, to his astonishment, he found the back piazza all on fire, together with a large quantity of wood which had been sawed up and piled underneath it. He broke open the door of the house, and found my mother and five children wrapped in silent slumber. On awaking us, we seized our clothes and rushed out of doors, into the snow, which was more than a foot deep, without waiting to remove any of our furniture. He aroused a neighbor who resided in the next house, and by their united exertions, they succeeded in arresting and extinguishing the devouring element. On examining the premises, we found the fire had reached to within a foot of the place where we were sleeping; and had it not been for the timely discovery of Mr. Braisted, our destiny for time would have been forever sealed: but thanks to an overruling Providence for the merciful preservation of our lives.

A short time after this, being fond of sport as well as literature, I procured a piece of twine, lead, and fish-hooks, and repaired to the end of a long dock, commonly known as the steamboat landing, seated myself on the string piece, with my legs hanging over the water, and commenced

learning the art of angling. The attention of the fish was soon attracted to the bait, one or more of them gave a glorious nibble, I instantly answered the call by a tremendous jerk of the line, when, losing my equilibrium, I tumbled headlong into the water. Struggling for some time with the element, but not being able to swim, I had gone down for the last time, when a man rushed up from the cabin of his vessel, which was made fast to the dock, and missing me, without any further ceremony, he plunged headlong into the river, and after surveying the watery premises for a moment, at length discovered my whereabouts, at a distance of twenty-five feet below the surface, seized me by the hair of the head, brought me up, elevated my head above the water, and, by the assistance of another individual, soon placed my feet upon *terra firma*, when he addressed me as follows: "Now, you young scamp, cut for home." I immediately, without thanking him for salvation from a watery grave, set my legs in motion, and in a short time arrived at home, where the necessary appliances were made use of to extract the water from my stomach; and with returning reflection came a feeling of complete satisfaction with the proficiency I

had acquired in the art of angling, and a thorough conviction of the necessity of ever afterwards preserving an equilibrium.

My first act of disobedience to my parents, within my recollection, occurred on a Sabbath-day, when I was about eleven years of age. A party of pleasure had arranged to go on a fishing excursion, and my eldest brother and myself asked my father's permission to go, which he positively refused. We persisted in our determination and went ; and, on our return home, were severely punished by my father ; in connection with which he delivered us a long and pathetic lecture on the consequences of Sabbath-breaking, and disobedience to his parental authority, which lecture made a more lasting impression upon our minds than the flogging we received upon our backs. Having been brought up to attend Sabbath-school, and the instruction of religious teachers, my mind was early impressed with the importance of religion. In company with a young friend and associate of my infant days, at or about the age of twelve years, we were swinging on a scup which was attached to two poplar trees, and while performing various feats we were precipitated to the ground, I falling upon my head ; from which

fall I sustained considerable injury. My mind for some time dwelt upon death and its consequences, believing, as I did, in the doctrine of future rewards and punishments, I felt if I died in my sinful state, I should certainly be doomed to everlasting misery, which filled my mind for some time with dreadful forebodings of the future ; but in a short time I recovered from the injury I had sustained from the fall, and my serious impressions gradually wore away on renewing association with my young companions.

At this time I determined on having another fishing excursion ; accordingly, a number of us young boys procured a small boat, and bent our course for Robin's Reef, a distance of about four miles from our homes. We arrived at the point in safety, and after hours spent in the vain hope of obtaining even a "bite," we concluded to weigh anchor ; when the wind commenced blowing almost a hurricane. We rowed for the nearest point of land, and on nearing Bergen Point, while I was standing up in the boat, by a lurch I was suddenly precipitated again into the briny element. I made my way for the shore, which I succeeded in a very short time in regaining, and amused myself, with my young companions,



in marking the peculiar mechanical construction of swallows' nests, a large number of which we found built in the bank, while my clothes were laid upon the rock, to dry in the sun, whose genial rays soon restored them to a wearable condition. While the sun was retiring to the west, the wind suddenly died away, and we started for home, where we in a short time arrived in safety. Having toiled all day and caught nothing, I came to the conclusion to abandon my fishing mania for a while, and try the sport of hunting.

On a beautiful morning, I set out with my father on a hunting excursion, at a time of the year when Nature had clothed the trees of the forest with verdant beauty, and the feathered songsters uttered their shrill notes of music, which fell delightfully upon the ear,—all calculated to soften the heart with sympathy, and excite the organ of sublimity, at the same time filling the mind with a reverential awe toward God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. I could not help upbraiding my father at this time, for slaying the little birds, whose voices uttered such melodious sounds ; but his feelings of sympathy had become blunted by age and other circumstances, and my reproof was little heeded. He, however,

gave me to understand that God had provided them for the sustenance of mankind, and that it was his duty, as well as a great privilege, to destroy the little unoffending creatures, and prepare them for food. His instructions had a tendency, in a very short time, to bring my organ of destructiveness into requisition ; so that, in a very little while, I could take away the life of the little innocent creatures without feeling a particle of sympathy. After the sports of the day were about over, my father suggested the propriety of my learning how to shoot. He accordingly placed a mark on a tree, handed the gun to me (enjoining upon me to hold it tight to my shoulder), and told me to take correct aim and fire ; which I accordingly did, when, to my chagrin and mortification, I found myself sprawling upon the ground, and the gun several feet behind me. I immediately rose upon my feet, and walked to the spot to see the effect of the charge, when, to my agreeable surprise, I found I had filled the mark with shot. This circumstance tended to relieve the pain under which my shoulder was smarting, the effect of the “kick” which I had received from the gun. My father reloaded, and advised me to try again ; which I did with great

success, being able this time to keep my equilibrium. I now found I had gained a great victory, and delighted myself with the thought that I should find great amusement with the use of the gun during my leisure hours, which anticipations were afterwards fully realized.

Having now nearly completed my education, my father questioned me with reference to my future prospects, and manifested a great desire to know what calling or profession I had fixed upon for a livelihood. I told him I was rather undecided whether to select the profession of an artist (having made great proficiency in the art of drawing and painting), or choose the mercantile life. He and my fond mother thought I should, in all probability, become very eminent as an artist; but after thoroughly canvassing the matter in my own mind, I came to the conclusion that this profession was too humble an occupation for an individual of so much importance as I felt myself at this time; having had the organ of self-esteem pampered by my parents, who set greater store by me than any of their children; which indulgence caused them, in after life, to weep bitter tears over their own folly. I accordingly told my father that I should choose the mercantile life, to



which choice I readily assented, when I set about making the necessary preparations for so important a calling, not forgetting, at the same time, to indulge in my youthful sports of fishing and hunting whenever an opportunity offered. At length my honored and distinguished tutor pronounced me fully competent to take charge of a sett of books. My father deeming a collegiate course of studies unnecessary for the calling I had chosen, removed me from school, and, through the advice of my uncle, placed me in a situation with an extensive importer of foreign coals, whose office was located in Nassau-street, city of New York.

I now found I was deprived of all my favorite employments, and obliged to remain in the office from morning till night, except when I was sent out to collect bills, or transact any other business for my employer, who was a very humane and feeling man, and a thorough scholar. He also had a very interesting and motherly lady for his wife, together with a large and interesting family of children. I boarded in the family with them during my stay, which was very brief, and tried to make myself satisfied with my lot; but as I grew older I grew more restless and wavering in my disposition. About three months after I en-

gaged in my present occupation, my employer, through speculations in real estate and a very extended business, failed, and became a very poor man. I was accordingly sent home to my parents, which change was very desirable on my part, as I had not been weaned from my favorite sports of fishing and hunting. I spent the hours allotted to me, while residing with my parents at this time, in these sports, and also in other amusements, with little or no interruption. At length my uncle came from the city, and informed my father that he had obtained a situation for me in a grocery store in the city of Brooklyn ; which intelligence, I can assure the reader, was received by me with no degree of pleasure. I entered upon my new duties, and boarded with Mr. Stacey, the junior partner of the firm. They owned lighters and water boats, and sold rum out of the store ; through which circumstances I was necessarily surrounded by a class of loathsome, degraded drunkards, whose example had a pernicious influence on my mind, and induced me to partake freely of the intoxicating cup. I might here offer some palliating excuse for drinking myself, as it was then a general practice for almost every man, woman, and child in the United States to drink

more or less of the accursed poison ; and it was generally kept in the houses of both the rich and the poor, to treat their friends with when they called in to see them. Between rum and avarice, the partners became dissatisfied with each other in a very short time after I engaged with them, and the place was soon rendered a scene of contention and drunken broils, all of which circumstances had a tendency to blunt the fine feelings I possessed in my school-boy days. In about three months from the time I had engaged in this unholy calling, while sitting one morning on the store stoop, I was suddenly seized with a fit, which was, no doubt, brought on by indulging in the too frequent use of ardent spirits. I was immediately placed upon a bed, where, during the day, I had about forty of them, which came very near destroying me. My father and uncle were immediately sent for, who came, and on consultation, concluded to remove me forthwith to my home in the quiet village of Tompkinsville, where I lay sick for some time, without ever revealing to my parents the cause of my illness. After I recovered from my sickness, I began to take a retrospective view of the past, and came to the conclusion that there was very little certainty of

success in mercantile pursuits. I therefore determined, with the consent of my father, to learn a trade, and forthwith engaged with R. Brantingham, to learn the art and mystery of making saddles and harness. Being the only apprentice, I of course had a good chance to acquire a knowledge of the trade, and did make very great proficiency in a very short time. My "boss" being a single man, it was fixed upon that I should board with my parents, which I did for about one year; and through the generosity of my father, I received most of the board money, which I spent in clothing and other things; but this had a very great tendency to increase my pride and make me profligate in my expenditures. I also formed a great attachment for attending balls; and, by means of a secret passage, I had access to my father's house at any time of the night, without disturbing my parents. At length my father became alarmed about my morals, instituted some inquiry about my getting into the house, and, on learning the secret, before I was aware of his intention, closed up the secret passage, and placed an injunction upon each member of the family not to allow me to enter the house through their means, under any circumstances.

One night I went to a ball, and when the festivities were nearly over I bent my course homeward ; and on trying to get into the house, I found the secret passage was closed. Here I was completely nonplused. What to do I did not know. At length I went round to the front part of the house, took the mat from the front stoop, and, returning again to the rear, laid myself down in the private house. The weather being extremely cold, I could not remain in that position long, so I arose from my unpleasant couch, and made my way into the street, determined to spend the remaining portion of the night in walking ; but, being somewhat sleepy and tired, I was soon induced to alter my mind, and accordingly went back to the hotel, where I found a number of young men drinking and carousing, singing songs, &c. I joined in with them, and soon lost all self-respect. Becoming somewhat intoxicated, I commenced blaming my father for locking me out of the house, when three young men, such as I would not associate with on ordinary occasions, stepped forward and tendered their hospitality, inviting me to go home with them and sleep, which invitation I cordially accepted. We were soon, all four of us, huddled into bed together, like pigs in



a sty. On awaking at daylight, with a fevered brain, I determined to abandon all revelry for a time, and informed my father, on my return home, of the good resolution I had formed, when he expressed himself perfectly happy on learning my determination to reform. For a short time, I conducted myself with propriety, but was not long destined to remain in quiet repose; during an election, the democrats being victorious, they kindled a large fire in the street in honor of their success, and at the same time indulged freely in the use of beer, a large quantity of which was prepared for the occasion. I, with others, freely drank of the beverage until we all began to get quite funny, when a number of us repaired to a "rum hole," and while there, I took up a large cheese knife which lay on the counter, and dared any one of them to combat with me. At this instant, the very man who had saved me from drowning (the particulars of which are contained in the former part of my narrative) stepped forward, and, after procuring a knife from a shoemaker who sat next to him, pursued me round the counter, and while in the act of fleeing from him, in his drunken rage he thrust the knife into my left side, which wound the doctor, on exam-

ination, pronounced somewhat dangerous, the knife having penetrated within one-eighth of an inch of my kidney. After the wound was dressed, I was carried home and laid upon a bed, when my father, instead of sympathizing with me, told me that it served me right, while my doting mother wept floods of tears over my unfortunate and critical situation. She was almost constantly at my bedside, soothing the pain under which I suffered, and praying that God would spare the once-darling boy, who had caused her heart to bleed by his disobedient and wayward character. Her prayers were speedily answered, and in a few weeks I was able to pursue my daily avocations.

In a short time after this, while on my way from New York to Staten Island, on board a steamboat, one Sabbath afternoon, in the act of leaning over the companion-way, I lost my equilibrium, and was precipitated into the cabin, my head coming in violent contact with the floor. I was carried on the deck for dead, and did not exhibit any signs of returning consciousness for about an hour afterwards ; but by bleeding, and other necessary remedies, I was again restored to the embrace of my too fond mother. Being now nearly fifteen years of age, and growing very im-

patient under the restraint of parental authority, I determined to procure another boarding-house, which I accordingly did, with Mrs. G. Reed, a widow lady, who resided a short distance from my father's house. Now in my new domicil, I began to concoct new schemes for pleasure and recreation ; and having made an arrangement with the servant girl to admit me, upon knocking, at any time of the night, I was enabled fully to satiate my appetite for pleasure, until I had drained the cup to its very dregs. At length, one Sabbath afternoon, while sporting with some of my young companions, on the top of a high hill, near the pavilion, we were suddenly surprised by the intelligence that a man named Degroot had hung himself. We immediately proceeded to the spot, and found him still hanging. On approaching him, I jocularly remarked, that the old fellow had been careful to provide himself with a chew of tobacco, of enormous dimensions, which, in the act of strangulation, he had clenched between his teeth ; bnt, on examination, it was found to be his tongue. Never shall I forget the circumstance while I have a being, and the light manner in which I treated it at the time the coroner and jury were holding an inquest over the body. On the



evening of the same day, while passing to the house of my aunt, my mind was suddenly brought into a train of reflection, induced, no doubt, by the sight of the self-murderer. I began to conjecture the cause of his having so suddenly deprived himself of existence, and the probable consequence of the rash act. No cause could be assigned, surrounded as he was by an interesting wife and six lovely children, placed above the fear of want, having amassed wealth to the amount of about six thousand dollars, sober and industrious in his habits, and moral in his outward deportment. I was forced to believe he had been driven to despair in the absence of hope of eternal happiness. These reflections, coupled with the sadness of the evening, caused me to feel very serious. I went, with my mother and aunt, to hear the Rev. Mr. Maclay, a Baptist minister from New York, preach a sermon on the importance of becoming a Christian, which caused me more seriously to reflect upon my past life. I went to my boarding-house with a heavy heart, and on retiring to rest, found that I could not sleep. The past, present, and future occupied my mind during the night, and I could not swallow my breakfast when it was set before me in the morning. For

three or four days I continued to magnify my sins in my mind, and a sadness marked my deportment, so that I became an object of notice among the more serious portion of the community. At length an old Presbyterian elder, who boarded in the house with me, inquired the cause of my sadness. I told him I had been a very great sinner against God, and had despised the gentle reproof of my fond and doting parents ; and that I believed God would doom my soul to eternal perdition. In his usual kind and tender manner, he tried to point me to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world ; assuring me, at the same time, that God was willing to pardon the vilest of the vile. I told him I had sinned so long, that my sins were too great to be forgiven—that I was driven to despair, and tempted to deprive myself of existence. He begged me, for God's sake, not to think of committing the rash act, and invited me to sleep with him on that night, which I did. On the following day he had an interview with my mother, and told her the peculiar condition of my mind, when she sent for me to come home on that evening, as she wished to converse with me. Shame and guilt would have prevented me from going ; but the agony of my mind was so great,

that I thought if I could only unfold to her the burthen of my guilt, I should, in some measure, be relieved from the great weight which rested on my conscience.

On my arrival at home, my father, brothers, and sisters retired to rest, and left me alone with my mother. She commenced conversation immediately—inquired into the state of my mind, tried to console me by quoting passages of Scripture, pointing me to Christ as the only means by which salvation might be obtained, and wound up by a solemn and pathetic prayer to God, that he would, for Jesus' sake, pardon my sins. On arising, she said, "Oh ! my son, I hope you will now give your heart to God, and devote the remnant of your days to his service ; as faithfully, at least, as you have devoted these last few years to serving the devil." My heart being too full for utterance, I retired to my boarding-house without making any reply to her. For six weeks I remained in that awful state of despair, closely watched by my mother, and prayed for by the more spiritual portion of the church to which she had the privilege of being attached. One beautiful Sabbath morning, I repaired with my mother to church, a distance of two miles and a half from

home. Cast down and sad I entered its sacred inclosure. The minister, the Rev. A. R. Martin, after giving out a hymn, offering up a solemn and fervent prayer to God in behalf of poor sinners, and then giving out another hymn, which was sung by the congregation, took his text from the Song of Solomon, iii., 9, 10, "King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon. He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love for the daughters of Jerusalem." While he was expatiating on the Church's fight and victory in temptation, and Christ's love for repenting sinners, my soul was suddenly relieved from the burthen of guilt, the weight of which had nearly overwhelmed me. The sudden transition from sorrow to joy was so great, that I could not tell whether I was in the body or out of it for some moments ; and I could hardly help shouting, "Glory to God in the highest," for the wonderful change which had been wrought in my mind at this time. On closing the services by singing a hymn, I joined in with them in praising God, with a voice so loud, and a countenance so happy, that it was immediately perceived by all present. On pronouncing the



benediction, the man of God came down the steps of the pulpit, took me by the hand, and inquired into the state of my mind. I told him I was perfectly happy, and that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven my sins. He told the brethren and sisters present what had taken place, when they wept tears of joy, and joined with the holy angels in rejoicing over a repenting prodigal. My dear mother was so happy that it seemed almost, for a time, as though her soul would quit its cumbersome clay, and flee away to mansions in the skies. During the course of that week, I was waited upon by the Rev. A. R. Martin, who conversed with me freely about my former course of life, my past and present views of the doctrines of the gospel, and what course I intended to pursue in the future. I freely related to him my experience, expressed my firm hope of a blessed immortality, and assured him that my firm determination was to live for Christ and his cause. I also told him that I had come to the conclusion to join his church, providing the brethren should be satisfied with a relation of my Christian experience, and expressed my ardent desire to follow my Saviour, in obedience to his commands, in baptism. He then most affectionately invited me to appear be-

fore the church on the following Sabbath ; which I accordingly did, and told the brethren and sisters my simple and child-like tale, spoke of the wondrous grace of God in saving a wretch so vile as I was, and stated my determination to offer myself up as a living sacrifice, which I trusted would be holy and acceptable to God. My simple narrative affected every one present, so that there was not a dry eye in the house. On retiring to await the decision of the church, I had my fears that they would not receive one so unworthy as I felt myself to be at this time ; but was completely overjoyed, on being called in, to hear the announcement that the church had unanimously received me for baptism.

The time being fixed for the administration of this solemn ordinance, on the next Sabbath, at the Quarantine Ground, and all the preliminary arrangements having been made, the fact was very generally circulated, which had a tendency to bring together a large concourse of people, many of whom were my young associates in sin. The day being somewhat cloudy, and the ceremony impressive, it induced a great solemnity to pervade the minds of the listening and attentive spectators, many of whom were members of

churches of other denominations. Never while I have a being will I forget the feelings of my soul on this solemn occasion. Surrounded as I was by many of my former associates, with whom I had spent my school-boy days, and indulged in many youthful sports, my soul was filled with emotions too intense for pen to describe. Looking back on the past, with my mind filled with joy and sorrow, I thought to myself, "Oh! my young friends, could I lead you to Jesus, where you could find pleasure without alloy, how happy should I be!" All these reflections, coupled with the responsibility which I felt was attached to me, filled my mind with solemn fear and awe lest I should not adorn the doctrine of God my Saviour by a well-ordered life and godly conversation.

I gave myself up to secret devotion and prayer to my Heavenly Father during the week, that he would guide me by his unerring wisdom, and that I might not be permitted to wound his cause by any unholy act. On the following Sabbath, the pastor, on behalf of the church, extended to me the right-hand of fellowship, when I sat down to partake of the elements of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Oh! how sweet I then

found it to commune with the people of God!— I felt that I would not return to the beggarly elements of the world, even could I become possessor of the whole realm of nature. From this time, for about three months, I remained perfectly happy; when, from some cause, my mind, for a short time, was filled with doubts, fearing that my hopes were vain and delusive; but I soon found the promise of the Saviour verified—that he will turn none empty away who come unto him in sincerity and truth. Let me urge you, my kind reader, if you are placed in like circumstances, to keep close to the feet of Jesus; and by a humble appeal to God, through him, you need fear no fall.

About this time, my mind became seriously occupied with a desire to preach the gospel; and after relating my impressions to my beloved pastor and his consort (the latter of whom I shall have occasion to mention frequently) they replied, that if God had a special work for me to perform, he would grant me more grace and wisdom, to qualify me for the important undertaking. I continued to pray for more grace and wisdom, that I might have a proper understanding of the Scriptures, and be enabled to hold up a crucified Sa-



viour in such a way, that I might be instrumental in winning poor sinners to God. My prayer was answered ; for, if I did not deceive myself, I continued to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, for about a year from the time I set out in the divine life.

At length I began to mark the careless manner of life of many of the old members of the church ; who, at one time at least, seemed to have the form of godliness, but now, by their unholy lives, seemed to deny the power thereof. These powerful circumstances had a pernicious influence on my mind ; in consequence of which, I began to neglect my devotional duties, and, in a little while, I was filled with doubts about the reality of the Christian religion. Shrouded in darkness and gloom, I fell into a desponding state of mind, which affected my brain and internal organs ; and, in a very short time, I became very troublesome to my employer, and also to my friends. I would sometimes refuse to labor ; and, in one instance, went off, in a fit of anger, into the country, and remained one entire week, which occasioned him to use severity towards me. I continued to grow restless and dissatisfied, until, at length, my father was prevailed upon to break my indentures, when

I was set at liberty, and fell upon my parents again for support. Having now served about two years and three months at my trade, and during that time made rapid progress in learning it, I flattered myself that I was fully competent to set out as a journeyman; I accordingly went to Newark, in New Jersey, and engaged with Messrs. Carter and Mitchell, under instructions, for a short time, they allowing me moderate wages. I had not been there more than one week, when an accident occurred to me, by which I came well nigh losing my life. Being in the store of an acquaintance one evening, I suddenly determined to go to a Baptist prayer-meeting, and immediately left the store with that purpose. It being very dark, and not suspecting there was any danger in the way, in attempting to cross the street, I was suddenly precipitated into a supplement of the canal, falling on my head a distance of about ten feet. How I got out of the place I cannot tell, as I was rendered totally insensible by the fall for some time; but finally, after great exertions on the part of the surgeon who dressed my wound, I was restored to a state of consciousness. As soon as I was able to go out, I hired a horse and saddle, and set out for home, by way

of Elizabethtown Point; on arriving at which place I had the horse put into the stable, and took the steamboat for Staten Island. After arriving at Port Richmond, a distance of five miles from my father's house, I set out on foot, and in a short time arrived home; where I remained for about two days, and then I concluded to return by the same route which I came. On arriving at Elizabethtown Point, I procured my horse and set out for Newark; and on my way thither, two young bloods came riding past in a gig, when one of them struck my horse with a whip, and he started off with tremendous fury. Being rather an inexperienced rider, I found it very difficult to hold him, and on suddenly reining him up toward a stone fence, I lost my balance and fell off. One of my feet caught in the stirrup, and while in this situation, I was dragged for some distance along the ground, thereby bruising my face and body very much, and tearing my coat nearly all off my back. My horse left me behind, to make the rest of my way on foot, in a crippled condition. After some time of pain and toil I succeeded in gaining the residence of my employer, who was very much startled at my wretched appearance: but, like the good Samaritan, he

applied the healing balm to my wounds, which soon restored my body, but left my mind in a shattered condition. As soon as I was able to walk, I proceeded to Elizabethtown on foot, and went to the store of an old acquaintance, and purchased some "Yankee notions," to the amount of about thirty dollars, and gave him an order on my father for the money. I then proceeded back to Newark, and soon squandered the few little "notions" I had purchased. I remained there a few days, and worked at my trade; but growing more nervous and restless all the while, I came to the conclusion to quit and go home. I started on foot, without a cent in my pocket; and on arriving at the point, fatigued and hungry, I called at the house of the captain of the steamboat, who generously offered me the hospitalities of the table, and gave me a free passage to Staten Island. On arriving home, after a few hours' walk, my mother was suddenly startled at my haggard countenance and forlorn appearance; but ever ready to bestow her sympathy on her poor boy, like the father of the prodigal mentioned in Scripture,

"She saw me coming back—  
She saw, and ran and smiled,  
And threw her arms about the neck  
Of her rebellious child!"—



Exclaiming, at the same time, "Oh! my son! my son! do you mean to break my heart, and bring my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave?" For a moment I remained speechless; but my heart being moved by the expression, I burst out in a flood of tears, and exclaimed, "Oh! my mother! my mother! I love you: but I cannot help it." On my father's return home in the evening, my doting mother met him, and begged that he would pity his unfortunate son, whom she had every reason to believe insane. On the next morning he procured a lock, and putting it on an upper room door, told me that he wished me to occupy that room, where he had placed my library, and a box of water color paints and pencil brushes, together with pen, ink, and paper. On entering the room, to inspect its arrangement, my father immediately turned the key on the outside, and kept me a prisoner for nearly a week, during which time I amused myself by reading and drawing. I finally determined not to remain longer a captive; and accordingly got out through the dormant window, passed over the roof to the back part of the house, got into the back dormant window, slipped down stairs, and stole out of the house unperceived. I then

made my way to my father's barn ; and with the aid of some tools which I borrowed on the way, cut a large hole in the roof, with the intention of erecting a windmill. My father having occasion to go to my room, was much surprised, on opening the door, to find I had fled. He immediately pursued me, and was informed that I was at work on the roof of the barn. I did not notice his approach, as my mind was so intensely bent on my work. He called to me to come down, which I did, and received a gentle cuff on the ear, and was marched home to occupy my former prison. On entering it, I found that he had secured the window in such a manner that it would be impossible for me again to make my escape by that outlet. I therefore tried to make up my mind to be contented with my solitary place, seated myself before the looking-glass, drew my own likeness, painted it to imitate life, and sent it down to my mother, who, on inspecting it, pronounced it to be a very good one. The labors of the day being over, I lay down to rest, and soon fell asleep. On awaking in the morning, my mind was aroused by a new idea—that I was yet to become a great genius ! I immediately set myself about making preparations to verify my designs. After search-



ing about my room for some time, I found a piece of chalk, and commenced drawing a design of a steam railroad car upon the floor, having never seen one, nor even heard a description of it. My father entered the room during the course of the day, and on casting his eyes to the floor, beheld there the productions of my genius. After expressing his surprise about my perceptions, I told him that I was destined yet to become a great man ; when he replied, “ Yes, you will become either a great man or a devil.” I contented myself in my solitary chamber for a few days, and during that time I destroyed a number of my books in endeavoring to ascertain the art and mystery of bookbinding. At length, growing weary of confinement, I came to the determination to make my escape from the room ; and picking up an old corset board which I found in my room, I commenced my attempt to thrust back the bolt of the lock attached to the room door, which soon yielded to my superior powers. On passing down stairs, I snatched up my gun, which had afforded me so much sport in my youth, and passing out of the house, proceeded to the shop of a wheelwright and blacksmith close by, and there I completely destroyed the beautiful little fowling-piece, so

that it never could be used afterwards. My father came to the shop, took me by the arm, and marching me down to the hospital, had me confined to the jail. On the bolts being turned on the outside of the door, I began to rave like a madman ; and picking up a large stick of wood, I threatened to tear down the walls of my cell, which I thought I could do as easily as Joshua and his host battered down the walls of Jericho. Finding me determined to put my threats into execution, they opened the door, when I became, in a short time, quite passive ; and then assured Dr. Hitchcock and the prison-keeper, if they would not again turn the bolts against me, that I would be contented to remain there, but not as a prisoner. Being disposed to gratify my wishes, they left the doors unbolted ; and, at my solicitation, supplied me with a medical work, that I might not be crossed in any of my desires, having previously assured the doctor of my determination to become a physician. While I remained in the hospital, I devoted most of my time to study, and would occasionally pass through with the doctor, examining the legs of the old sailors, and making remarks and gestures, until you might suppose (if you did not know the peculiar state

of my mind) that I had become proficient in the healing art. But my mind was not destined to remain long undisturbed ; for, one evening, in passing through the kitchen of the hospital, I commenced making love to the cook ; and while in the act of kissing and hugging her, the husband came in and caught us. He became very much exasperated, and dealt a blow at me, which struck me on the nose and felled me to the floor.

This circumstance filled my mind with rage ; and stepping on the outside of the first gate, I there remained a short time, lying in wait for him, determined in my own mind on having revenge. In a few moments he made his appearance, when I immediately threw off my coat and challenged him to combat, which challenge he did not accept, when my mind became maddened with rage, and I would in all probability have killed him, had it not been for the interference of three gentlemen present, who seized hold of me, and conducted me into the cell. On thrusting me in, I gave the door a tremendous kick with my foot, which caused it to separate from the casement and fall to the floor. By this time a large number of persons had collected together, some to laugh, and others to pity me for the wreck of mind. Among

the number, my disconsolate father made his appearance, accompanied by two physicians, who pronounced me totally deranged, and ordered me to be placed in a strait-jacket immediately, which order was promptly obeyed, when I was laid down upon a mattress, as straight and as stiff as a liberty-pole. Two competent watchers volunteered their services to remain with me during the night, when the rest of the party dispersed. During the night, I raved and thundered my anathemas against my enemies, who I thought were very cruel in confining me in the manner they did. On the morning of the next day I was relieved from my unpleasant predicament by the strait jacket being removed. During the day, my father called and took me to a tailor's shop, and fitted me out with a new suit of clothes; informing me, at the same time, of his determination to send me out into the country to board on the following morning. On my return, I was met by Major Dixon, who told me that it was his intention to accompany me into the country, and stated that the building where I was to reside for a short time was one of magnificent construction, connected with which there was a large amount of machinery, on which I should no doubt be able



to make considerable improvement. Delighted with the idea, I spent the night in a state of ecstasy, and on the following morning he drove up to the door with a fine span of horses, and, my baggage in the carriage, inquired if I was ready to go, and invited me to jump in, which I immediately complied with. My mind was so intensely taken up with my prospects, that I forgot to bid my friends good bye. We immediately drove on board the steamboat bound for New York. On our arrival at this place we drove up Broadway to Fulton-street, turned the corner, and stopped for a few moments at the Shakespeare Hotel, where we refreshed ourselves with a good glass of wine and a segar. Everything being ready, we again set out, passed up Chatham-street and Bowery, and were soon on the Bloomingdale road. On reaching the building previously alluded to by the gentleman, he suddenly exclaimed, "What a magnificent palace!" and inquired of me how I liked the appearance of the place. When I replied, it was just such a place as suited my fancy, we rode up to the house and alighted from our carriage, and he passed into the building, leaving me standing on the stoop. In a few moments he returned, accompanied by an elderly

Quaker lady, to whom he gave me an introduction ; remarking, at the same time, that I was going to board with her for a short period. She immediately turned round to an attendant, and requested him to show me through the building. On entering the door of the principal hall of the male department, my eye rested on an individual who I knew was insane, and the thought immediately crossed my mind that I had been trapped, and that the building was no other than an asylum for the insane. When I fully discovered the fact, my grief became inconsolable for a short time. On being invited to sit down and eat my dinner in a small room alone, I found, on inquiry, that the new patients were not permitted to use a knife and fork ; consequently, I was obliged to eat with a spoon, which I found, just at that moment, was a great deprivation, as I would, no doubt, have cut my throat while smarting under the disappointment ; but my rage soon subsided on being introduced to an old Baptist gentleman, who, I ascertained on inquiry, was a keeper in the upper hall. I was immediately placed under his kind care and protection during my stay in the institution. The next day I was visited by the resident physician, who, on examination, pro-



nounced my disease an inflammation of the liver, and I was placed under medical treatment, through which I began rapidly to recover ; and in a few days I was permitted to walk out with my keeper, and ride out in the carriage with the lunatics. We had a deer park and ten-pin alley connected with the institution, and consequently found ample means for the employment of the mind. My keeper having become very much attached to me, used frequently to take me out into the bower, where the female lunatics were in the habit of resorting in the evening. Here my mind became perfectly happy, while associating with those angels of mercy—God's best gift to man—who are accustomed to sympathise with us in our sorrows, and bear a share of our trials, while traveling the down-hill of time. I was exceedingly amused with their sweet music, while singing some favorite love-song, and also gratified with the sallies of their wit and good-humour. Such of them as were in the habit of resorting thither were quite in a sane state of mind, and would often interest us by relating the causes of their troubles ; which were, in most cases, brought about by being crossed in love, or disappointed by some heartless villain.

If time and space would permit, I would give my kind reader a full account of all that I witnessed while in this asylum ; but I cannot. Suffice it to say, however, that by the mercy of God, and the kind treatment I received during my stay, I was thoroughly restored to health and right mind, but not to the enjoyment of religion. Having been there about five weeks, I began to have a longing desire for home ; and having some smattering knowledge of writing poetry, I sat down one beautiful afternoon, and composed the following lines on home :—

How dear to the heart is that hallowed retreat  
Where father, and mother, and children do meet,  
To breathe forth affections a Saviour hath given,  
Around that fair altar devoted to heaven.

Home, home ! sweet, sweet home !

There is no place like heaven, for that is my home.

But when far removed from the friends whom we love,  
As in sickness and sorrow, we mourn like a dove,  
For a blessing from heaven to revive and to cheer,  
When no father, nor mother, nor sister is near.

Home, home ! sweet, sweet home ! &c.

When bereft of our reason, our health, and our friends,  
Kindly near us an angel affection extends :

Oh ! how it relieves us from troubles and woes,  
When he wipes off the tear that in agony flows

Home, home ! sweet, sweet home ! &c.

From the cheek of my mother, which I was accustomed  
to kiss,—

With such ecstasy, too, and afford me such bliss,  
That home of my childhood was rendered more dear,  
When that mother, with father and sister, were near.

Home, home ! sweet, sweet home ! &c.

Dear Father in heaven, oh ! hallow that home  
Prepared by thy angels, with a blessing to come,  
Through a Saviour so promised—a home in the skies,  
Which the poor always value, and the rich can't despise.

Home, home ! sweet, sweet home !

There is no place like heaven, for that is my home.

Preparations were now made for my return home ; when I set out with my oldest brother, who was sent for me : we arrived in a few hours, to the great joy of my parents and kind friends. I remained at home a short time, but found a difficulty in keeping my mind employed, as I had lost the taste I formerly had for fishing and hunting ; I therefore, by the recommendation of Dr. Hitchcock, went to New Brunswick, N. J., and engaged with Mr. Voorhees, to work at my trade. Not liking the place, I quitted it, and engaged with a Mr. Skenck, where I worked for a short time and was taken sick ; and my board and doctor's bill ran up to a considerable amount during my illness. On my recovery, I determined to

return home, which I accordingly did, and made up my mind, in a very short time, to go to sea, and try the life of a sailor. Some of my friends proposed to procure a commission from Government, for me to enter the navy as a midshipman, to which my father objected; notwithstanding which, I came to the city, and hired a boatman to row me off to a man of war which was lying at anchor off the battery in the North River. I remained on board during the remainder of the day and night, and messed with the midshipmen. On retiring to rest, I was pointed to a hammock, into which I was soon snugly ensconced; but during the night I was turned out by its owner, who, with an imprecation, asked me what I was doing there. After searching about among a hundred hammocks for a place wherein to rest my weary bones, I was finally obliged to lie down upon the softest plank, where I reposed during the remainder of the night, and woke up in the morning with aching bones. As soon as it was daylight, I hailed a boatman, and employed him to set me on shore, fully satisfied with the knowledge I had obtained of the man-of-war service. On my return home, my father informed me that he had procured me a situation on board the brig

*Buenos Ayres*, bound for some of the ports in South America; but from some cause or other, best known to my father, I was not permitted to go out with her. In the course of a few days, I was provided with another situation, to go before the mast, on board the brig *Baltic*, bound for the West Indies.

My father provided me with a hammock, mattress, and a good stock of sea-clothes; and my mother, too, not forgetting her poor boy, furnished me with a pot of pickles, and other delicacies which sailors do not usually possess. The vessel being now ready for sea, I clad myself in sailor's garb, and cut considerable of a figure, I can assure you; although the appearance of my face and hands would seem to indicate that I was more fit for a profession of a more delicate nature than that which I was about to enter upon. I went on board in the dusk of the evening, and we weighed anchor and set sail. After getting under way, the captain ordered me up aloft, to loose the top-gallant sails. I succeeded in reaching the foretop, but not being very expert in climbing, I could not get any further up at this time, when he called me a "land-lubber," and ordered me to come down, which order I promptly obeyed. The first



watch being set, I was ordered to remain on deck, whilst the larboard watch went below to repose. During this watch, the captain again—being a particular friend of my father's—called me aft, and in his peculiar, sailor-like manner, urged me to persevere, assuring me that I possessed every requisite qualification to make a good sailor. Feeling somewhat flattered, I gave him a promise that I would do everything that lay in my power to acquire a knowledge of seamanship. He then ordered me aloft again, to loose the fore-top-gallant sail and royal, and on making the second trial I succeeded to admiration. When I came down on the deck, he praised me for my successful exploit, assuring me, at the same time, that I was his “noble little sailor-boy.”

When our watch expired, the captain told me to go forward, take the end of a rope, rap upon the fore-castle, and sing out, “Larboard watch ahoy !” which I did in a stentorian tone, when the men were soon on deck, and the starboard watch went below. We turned in with our clothes on, and after thinking of home a few moments, I fell into the arms of Morpheus. Being tired, I slept sweetly for four hours, when I was suddenly roused by the gruff voice of an old



sailor, bawling, in a tone which grated upon my ear like thunder, "Starboard watch ahoy!" We were on deck in a few minutes, and each man resuming his station, we were ordered to keep a good look-out forward. During four hours, I amused myself, the most of the time, in looking down by the side of the vessel, and beholding the blue and sparkling waters. On again going below into the fore-castle, and getting the smell of the bilge water, I was suddenly seized with a deathly sickness at my stomach, and was obliged to hurry upon deck to "cast up my accounts." How I longed, at this juncture, to be at home! A residence even in the hog-pen of my father appeared far preferable to my present position, and gladly would I have made the exchange. The mate, discovering that I was sea-sick, set me to chasing the hog round the deck, which caused much merriment among the old sailors. In the course of the forenoon my sickness subsided, when I began to feel very hungry, as I had eaten nothing but pickles since the previous evening. At length the cook announced that dinner was ready, my watch were called up from below, and we all sat down flat upon the deck, round a small tub—called by sailors a "kid"—bountifully filled with

salt junk beef and pork, and also a box filled with sea-bread. Before I commenced to eat, my mind was directed to home, where my father's table was liberally spread, and groaned with the luxuries of life, and I began to regret that I had entered upon the sea-faring profession. My appetite growing more keen, I at length seized a biscuit (which is all the plate a sailor has on ship-board) and drawing my knife out of its sheath, cut off a large piece of beef, and commenced devouring it as fiercely as a vulture would prey upon carrion. I was so much taken up with my salt beef and biscuit that I did not notice the sailors had grog until I had nearly finished eating. On making the discovery I jumped upon my feet, went to the galley, and demanded to know from the steward why I was not served like the rest of the sailors. He told me, in reply, that the captain had strictly forbidden him to give me any grog, at the express wish of my father. I went back to where the men were sitting, and told my mournful story; when, like all true sailors, they shared with me, and continued to do so during the voyage. After dinner, I thought I would take a last farewell sight of my native country; but, on casting my eyes around, I beheld nothing but the

broad and expansive ocean, the clear blue sky, and the bright sun, whose effulgent beams seemed to shine with surpassing brightness; and while our noble vessel was tossed to and fro upon the mighty deep, I was led to exclaim, "Ah! truly, they that go down to the sea in ships, and do business upon the great waters, see the mighty and wonderful works of God."

In the course of a few days I began to get quite used to the manner of living. It might be proper here to give you some idea of our bill of fare:— On Sunday, beef and duff; Monday, beef and pork; Tuesday, pork and beans; Wednesday, beef and duff; Thursday, lobscourc; Friday, codfish and potatoes; Saturday, beef and pork. Lest my reader cannot understand the meaning of "duff," I will explain. It is simply flour and water, shortened with slush and boiled in a bag; when done, it is placed in a kid and set afloat in molasses. At supper, we had cold meat and Yopan tea, sometimes called by sailors, "studding-sail boom tea," on account of the large sticks which are frequently found in it; this is also sweetened with molasses, and at first has rather an unpleasant taste; but sailors are obliged to get used to eating and drinking anything set before them.

During the day, when the watch was not below, the men were engaged in making sinnett for gaskets ; and would, in fair weather, overhaul and repair the rigging. This part of seamanship, together with furling sails, loosing the same, learning the ropes, tacking ship, steering my trick at the wheel, boxing the compass, &c., I soon became proficient in. On Sundays, no work is done about the vessel except working her, which gives the “jolly Jacks” an opportunity to mend and wash their clothes, many of whom have a scanty supply. I would frequently take my bible and hymn-book in my hand on Sundays, and read to the old sea veterans, which was received at first with no degree of pleasure. They would frequently call me “an old psalm-singer,” and accost me with vulgar and unmeaning epithets ; but by perseverance on my part, their opposition soon ceased, and they would listen to the contents of its sacred pages with a seeming degree of pleasure. Nothing remarkable occurred on our passage out ; and, after a reasonable time, I was sent up aloft, to spy out land, and in a short time I informed the captain that I espied something having that appearance, on the starboard bow. He came aloft, and



pronounced my judgment correct, when my heart beat with joy at the sight, and with the hope that I should soon place my feet on *terra firma*. In the course of the day, we made the island of St. Barts ; and while the vessel stood off and on, the captain, supercargo, and two of the men, went ashore for the purpose of disposing of the cargo, which consisted of American produce. Not being able to sell, they came on board, when we bore away for a Dutch island, called St. Thomas, which we reached, I think, the next day. On entering the harbour of the town of St. Thomas, I was exceedingly pleased with the view of the shipping, and also the ancient manner in which the town was built, together with the ruins of two ancient castles, formerly occupied by pirates, the history of one of whom is doubtless known to the reader. His name was Teach, though known more familiarly by that of "Black Beard." He had a castle in Ocracock, North Carolina, which I have also seen ; and it may be of some interest to those who have not read of him to learn what his fate was. At this latter place, while this country belonged to the government of England, he had his principal rendezvous, where he would bring his prizes in, when they were confiscated,

for the benefit of the British crown. But this was afterwards ascertained to be only a plan, arranged by himself and the governor of the colony of North Carolina, to cover up their iniquity, as it was well known the spoils were divided between them. This fact coming to the ears of the governor of Virginia, an expedition was immediately fitted out against him, commanded by Lieutenant Maynard, of the Royal Navy. On its arrival at the place, Teach espied the vessel, whose appearance excited his suspicion, and he immediately began to prepare for action. Maynard gallantly ranged his vessel alongside the piratical craft, and ordered his crew to board her ; when a desperate and bloody engagement took place, the two principals fighting with each other with broadswords. After a desperate struggle on the part of the crew of each vessel, they ceased fighting to behold the superior skill of their leaders, who fought for nearly an hour without striking each other. At length, by a dexterous blow from Maynard, the head of Teach was severed from his body, both of which were immediately picked up and thrown overboard. It is related of him, that his body swam round the vessel without a head ; but this, I suppose, is a mere traditionary fiction, such as



illiterate persons, with a morbid love for the miraculous, always endeavour to throw around the memory of men who have been conspicuous among their fellows for deeds of cruelty and blood.

But to return to my narrative. Having come to anchor and furl'd sail, we were very much annoyed by the natives—mostly negro women—coming on board in their little boats—called, in the West Indies, “gobars,”—for the purpose of purchasing some portion of our cargo, which consisted of flour, meal, beef, pork, fish, potatoes, onions, &c.

In the course of a few days, our cargo was sold, and our vessel discharged; and after supplying her with ballast and water, we hoisted sail and weighed anchor, bending our course for Rum Key, an English island. On going out of the harbour of St. Thomas, I lost my equilibrium, and fell down into the hold of the vessel, striking my head upon the chime of a cask, and receiving a very severe wound, from which I suffered for a few days. In the course of two or three days we arrived at the place of our destination, and commenced immediately taking in a load of coarse salt, which was brought on board in boats, by the male slaves, many of whom presented a horrible

spectacle. They were scantily clad, bareheaded, and without shoes, and many of them had their toes eaten off by the "jiggers," a small insect that eats into the foot and lays its eggs there, which are hatched by the warmth of the blood, and finally eat out at the toes. Talk about American slavery and its cruelties! it is not a circumstance to the barbarity and cruelty I there beheld. The female slaves, with nothing on them but a slip, bareheaded and barefooted, are obliged to carry the salt down to the boat on their heads, in bags, which contain about a bushel each. They walk along in droves, followed by a cruel taskmaster, who holds in his hand a whip with a long thong, which he applies very frequently to their backs when he discovers the slightest disposition on their part to halt in their arduous and severe toil. One day, while I and another of the crew were waiting at the wharf for the captain, my blood boiled within my veins, as I beheld this cruel driver lay the lash on the back of a beautiful female slave, who was nearly white. Her screams at every stroke were heart-rending. Stung by her wrongs, had I not been prevented by the fear of getting into trouble, I would have served him as Moses did the Egyptian who cut off the

ear of the Israelite. My shipmate felt equally indignant with myself ; and, if we could have smuggled her on board unperceived, we would have done so ; but we could not.

While our vessel was lying at anchor off this island, I was frequently amused by witnessing the negroes grease their heads and dive down into the clear blue sea, a distance of thirty or forty feet, after concks, the meat of which they used for food, and the shells were sold to us, to adorn the mantel-pieces of our parlours, when we should arrive at home. One day, Captain Smith, Captain Perry, and myself, took our small boat to go fishing about half a mile from where our vessel was lying at anchor. After catching a sufficiency of fish we concluded to return, and on nearing our brig we were hailed by the mate, who informed us that our log-line had been hauled into the sea, one end of which had been left hanging overboard, with a large hook and a piece of pork attached to it. We pulled rapidly for the reel, and soon succeeded in coming up to it. Captain Perry seized hold of it, and taking a turn round one of the thwarts of the boat, he remarked that the devil himself was at the other end of the line. Being an old and experienced whaleman, he con-

tinued to pay out line until it was nearly all wound off the reel, when he was obliged to hold on, and we were towed about a mile out to sea by the as yet unseen power at the other end of the line. But symptoms of fatigue at length became apparent, and we succeeded in drawing to the surface a monstrous fish. After turning the head of our boat towards the brig, Captain Smith, with a sharp blow from the boat-hook, started it off in that direction with increased fury. On nearing our vessel, we hauled the monster again to the surface, and by another thrust with the boat-hook we succeeded in taking away his life. We hauled alongside the brig, when the captain ordered a tackle and fall to be lowered, and after hooking the fish in the mouth, word was given to "hoist away," and he was soon on deck. It was finally pronounced, after some consultation, instead of the devil, as suggested by Captain Perry, to be a devil-fish. The sailors set about cutting him up for food, rejecting the tail, which was about nine feet long, and filled with sharp points, having the appearance of thorns. The old cook whilst amusing himself with it, ran one of these thorns into his foot, which instantly began to swell, and continued to do so until it was thought it would

burst. The pain was so severe as to drive him crazy for the remainder of the day and night. On the following morning, however, he was quite recovered, when he declared that he would never again have anything to do with the devil's tail.

Being now ready for sea, we weighed anchor and set sail for our beloved country. Nothing occurred worthy of note until the eighth day, when we made Cape Hatteras. Late in the afternoon, the sky began to gather blackness, and gave signs of a terrible storm. The captain ordered us to furl all the sails except the foretop-sail, in which there were two reefs taken, and the main spanker set. In a very short time the wind blew a hurricane, and the rain commenced to fall, the thunder to roll, and the lightning to flash. The immense billows reared their foaming crests, and threatened each moment to engulph our ship—a mere speck upon their vast and raging expanse—as she plunged her way forward, and nobly persevered in the desperate struggle. Never, while I live, shall I forget my feelings on this occasion. The confusion and turmoil of the elements seemed to threaten the dissolution of nature, and the lightning, as it danced madly overhead, momentarily lighted up the scene with an awful



glare, to be succeeded by a denser darkness and the terrific crashing of heaven's entire artillery ; the whole seeming, to my awe-stricken soul, a prelude to the "wreck of matter and the crash of worlds." All hands being on deck during the night, we were obliged to secure ourselves in the best manner possible ; I accordingly lashed myself fast to the pump on the quarter-deck, and soon after we shipped a sea which threw every man off his feet, except myself, and they were washed about the deck for some time before they could regain their footing. The storm continued with unabated fury for four days, during which time we were obliged to eat raw pork and biscuit, without even having tea or coffee, as it was impossible to cook anything. The water which we were necessitated to drink had by this time become very foul and offensive, so that it would rope like molasses ; while, at the same time, we fell short of biscuit, and what we had were full of worms. Fellow-landsmen, you have no idea of the sufferings of the sailor ; but notwithstanding all his trials, he has the consolation of knowing that Jesus loves and cares for the tempest-tossed mariner.

Tossed upon life's raging billow,  
Sweet it is, O Lord, to know  
That thou did'st press the sailor's pillow,  
And can'st feel the sailor's woe.

Never slumbering, never sleeping,  
Though the night be dark and drear,  
Thou the faithful watch art keeping,  
"All, all's well" thy constant cheer.

And, though masts and sails be riven,  
Soon life's voyage will be o'er;  
Safely moor'd in heaven's wide haven,  
Where storms and tempests vex no more.

After the storm abated, the wind died away to a moderate breeze, we again made sail, and through the course of the day fell in with two wrecks, which were abandoned. We boarded one of them, took from her some pieces of fine pork, a barrel of fish, and some buiscuit, together with a small anchor and cable. Before leaving her we knocked her dead lights in, for the purpose of sinking her. Her colours were lying on deck, and her masts, sails and rigging were cut away, and were lying alongside; we saw a ship to the leeward, and supposed she had taken off the crew. After two days sail, we had to counteract another storm, which was not quite so severe as the first,

it being chiefly wind and rain ; it lasted about the same length of time as the one I have just named, during which I was knocked off the foreyard-arm while furling the foresail, and fortunately for me, I caught in the shrouds in my downward descent. This storm was succeeded by a dead calm, during which the captain sent me up to scrape and slush the main-top-gallant mast. Taking a bucket up with me, filled with ten pounds of slush, I made it fast to the top-gallant shrouds ; but having to hold on with my legs whilst I used my hands, and a heavy dead sea causing the vessel to roll about very much, I found it difficult to perform my duty. I at length succeeded ; when Captain Perry (who was a passenger on board, and a noted tyrant) called out to me to give the main-topmast a dab. Whilst he was in the act of looking up, the lanyard of my slush-bucket gave way, and it fell heavily upon deck, just grazing his head and falling close to his feet, covering his clothes all over with slush, from his phrenological bumps down to his understandings. This accident caused much laughter among the old tars, while Captain Perry raved like a madman, charged me with doing it designedly, and desired the captain of the brig to call me down and give me a

severe flogging, which he refused to do, assuring him that it was a mere accident. During that night it commenced raining, and when the larboard watch was called I did not hurry myself on deck, when an old tar, whose head was whitened by the frosts of many winters, gave me a cuff on the side of my head, which I returned with interest, and the forecastle being very wet and slippery, his feet flew from under him, and falling on the edge of one of the chests, he broke one of his ribs, through which accident he was laid up for the rest of the voyage, and for which I felt very sorry.

As our clothes were all wet, and had been so for ten or twelve days, we were all more or less affected with rheumatism; and being short-handed, we now found it very difficult to manage our vessel; but through the agency of a kind Providence, we finally succeeded, after twenty-three days' sail, in making Montauk Point, the east end of Long Island. Reader, imagine my joy on again beholding my native land, after the suffering and toil of fifteen out of the twenty-three days we had been at sea. We took a pilot on board, and came to an anchor above Hell-gate, he not considering it safe to go through that night. After the sails



were furled, the captain ordered all hands to go below, except one man, who was directed to keep a good look-out, each man being called up in turn to take his watch on deck. During the night, it came on to snow, and in the morning it was very cold ; and not being able to wear my shoes in consequence of my feet being swelled and very sore, I suffered most intolerably. In this condition I was obliged to assist in weighing anchor and in getting the vessel under weigh ; after which, with the consent of the captain, I went below, and remained there until the vessel arrived at New York. My father being informed of my arrival, sent my eldest brother up to the city to accompany me home ; and after supplying myself with a pair of shoes, and bidding my old ship-mates good-bye, I left the vessel, sufficiently cured of any predilections I might formerly have entertained for the life of a sailor.

On my arrival at home, with a rough, unseemly exterior—my hands and face being burnt to the consistency and appearance of a smoked ham—my father, mother, brothers, and sisters crowded round me, and greeted me with tears of joy at my safe return ; and, in a short and brief manner, I related to them the history of my voyage. In



a day or two, I was able to go out and visit some of my old schoolmates, who were very glad to see me. Soon after this, I came to the city, where I fell in with some young men, who led me to a house of ill-fame. What occurred there delicacy would forbid I should name ; but suffice it to say, I had reason to repent it for some months after. After remaining at home about three months, I began to have a hankering desire (notwithstanding all my previous sufferings) to go to sea again. Without saying anything to my parents upon the subject, I came to the city, and on passing along the wharfs, I at length discovered a brig with a pendant flying at her mast-head, went on board, and asked the captain if he wanted any hands. He replied that he had shipped his crew, but wanted a cook. I told him I could cook ; when, after asking me a few questions, he engaged me, at \$13 50 per month. I went home, bade my friends good-bye, got my bedding and chest, came back to the city, and entered on board. This, I think, was in March, about the 3rd of the month, in the year 1832. We set sail, bound for Elizabeth city ; and, on the 17th day of the month, we took a squall in Albemarle Sound, which, for a short time, was very terrific. All hands were

ordered aloft to take in sail ; I went up to furl the main-top-gallant sail, and on arriving at the cross-trees, the yard and sail were blown away. One moment more, and my soul might have been ushered into the presence of its Maker. The captain stood on deck with a speaking-trumpet in his hand, and ordered me to come down, while he cried, prayed, and swore, all in a breath. After some time, the sails were furled and the vessel lay at anchor, where we rode out safely during the night. The next morning we got under weigh, and arrived in Elizabeth city the following morning. By order of the owner, R. M. Knox, the vessel was here laid up for repair, and the mate, a young man named Feach, and myself were the only persons who remained on board the vessel, the captain and the rest of the crew having quitted her. During a visit to a place of doubtful fame, in company with my shipmate, some person entered the vessel in the night, broke open my chest, and stole most of my clothes. When I returned in the morning, I was very much surprised to ascertain the result of my absence, and made up my mind to quit my midnight rambles ever after, which I did.

I do not intend to weary the patience of my

readers by giving a full-length account of this voyage, but will simply refer to some few circumstances worthy of note.

After our vessel had undergone a thorough repair, we took in a cargo, consisting of pine planks, staves, shingles, and a yankee skipper, who proved to be as mean a scoundrel as ever lived. To serve the devil more effectually, he dared to assume the livery of heaven. The vessel being loaded and ready for sea, we took on board the rest of our crew, consisting of a negro and two North Carolina sailors, as green as pumpkins. After setting sail, our brig glided slowly down Pasquotanck River, till at length we reached Albemarle Sound, and finally the "big blue herring pond," as the ocean is frequently termed by "old salts."

Nothing remarkable occurred during our passage out to the West Indies. With fair weather and a moderate breeze, we finally reached the island of Martinique, belonging to the French. We came to anchor and remained in the harbour of St. Pierre's about two days. Not being able to sell our cargo in this place, we got under weigh, and bent our course for Point Peter, in the island of Guadaloupe. After we had been out a few

days, we spied a sail under the land, which the captain and mate pronounced to be a pirate. We had a cannon on board, together with a supply of powder and ball, and also a few muskets and old rusty swords, which were brought on deck and made ready for use. This long, low, black schooner gave chase for about forty-eight hours, but at length a stiff breeze sprang up, and we soon left her out of sight. In about three days, we arrived at the place of our destination; and after coming to anchor, the vessel was taken charge of by a negro custom-house officer, who was armed with a cane knife. This gentleman of color and authority remained on board the whole time we staid at the place. The captain succeeded in selling the cargo, and in a few days our vessel was discharged. The first Sunday after our arrival, all hands went ashore for a frolic, myself among the rest, this being a great frolicing day all through the West Indies.

A short time after we got ashore, I missed my shipmates; and in strolling around in the public square of the city, I supplied myself with an abundance of West India fruits, of which I ate freely; and afterwards falling in with some jovial French sailors, I was invited to drink with them,



which I did ; and before we parted, I drank at least three pints of long-corked claret wine, which is very cheap in the French islands. After I left them I strolled round to the public green, where foreigners and citizens, including the free negroes, were congregated together in a mass, for the purpose of dancing a fandango, well known as a favorite Spanish dance. By this time I began to experience the effects of the wine, and joined in with them, losing all thought of the manner in which I had been accustomed to keep the Sabbath in my own country. After this was over, I went to the shore and hailed the brig, when the boat was sent for me. After getting on board the vessel, the mate being drunk and somewhat angry with me, told me to do something ; when, instead of replying, "Aye, aye, sir," I simply said, "Aye, aye," leaving out the "sir." This enraged him to such a degree, that he struck me a heavy blow with his fist, which felled me to the deck, where I lay for some time, totally stunned. On my recovery, had I not been prevented by fear of being placed in irons for mutiny, I should have returned the compliment ; but I concluded to suffer the wrong which I had received at his hands. During that night I was taken sick with a pain in



my head and the small of my back, and in the morning was burning with a violent fever, and unable to rise. The captain, after looking at me, pronounced my disease to be the yellow fever. The small boat was ordered alongside, and I was forthwith conveyed on shore, and carried by the men to a Catholic nunnery hospital. Here I was placed in a long room, with about eighty or ninety other patients, who were also sick with the fever, and whose groans would cause the stoutest heart to melt with sympathy. During the day, I was visited by two French physicians, who were accompanied by two beautiful nuns. They examined my tongue and my pulse, and after making some inquiries about my feelings, they administered a powerful dose of calomel, in the form of pills, which had the desired effect during the night, and in the morning I was much better. They continued dosing me with mercury until I became heartily sick of it; and when the backs of the beautiful nuns who nursed me were turned, I often concealed in the sand of the spittoon those powerful medicines whose operations had been designed for my internals. Having a strong constitution, Nature soon rallied, and in the course of a week I was able to sit up; when they began

to feed me with noodle soup, which was so thick with vegetables and glutinous matter, that it might be eaten with a fork. They also supplied me with a quart of wine per day, which stimulated my appetite, and I gained strength so fast, that in about two weeks I was well enough to leave the institution. During my stay here, I became strongly prejudiced in favor of the Roman Catholic religion. My former prejudices against the faith all fled when I beheld the example of the holy nuns and the superior, who would kneel before us every night and morning, and in an earnest and pathetic manner present their petitions to the God of heaven that he might have mercy upon the sick and the dying who were placed under their charge. Ah! my soul united with them in those solemn invocations, and I was made to feel very grateful to God for his mercy towards me, in sparing my unprofitable and sinful life, whilst there were, daily, others removed from the institution to the silent mansions of the dead. Before I left it, my affections became so strong for the superior, that I would fain have offered her my hand in marriage, had I not known that it was strictly forbidden by the holy order. The captain came to see me, and informed me that the vessel

would not take in cargo at this place, and that he was obliged to proceed immediately to St. Thomas. I was accordingly taken on board, but not without feelings of regret in being obliged to leave behind me my beautiful nun; and I immediately commenced my slushy occupation as cook, although quite weak from my previous illness.

Just before we weighed anchor, the captain ordered me to do something, which I did as well as my feeble strength would permit; but not suiting the gentleman's tastes, he became very angry; and having a tumbler in his hand at the time, he hurled it at me with such force that, on striking my arm, the glass broke, and cut several large pieces of flesh out of it. After his fit of anger had subsided, he discovered that I was fainting from weakness and loss of blood, and ordered the mate to bind up my wounds. As soon as I recovered from the shock, I promised myself that I would have satisfaction out of him on my return home; and on speaking to the men on the subject, they called him a "d—d villain," and said they were prepared to testify against him. We finally got under weigh, and set sail for the island of St. Thomas, where we arrived in a few days. Here we received orders to proceed to Myagues,

Porto Rico, a Spanish island, about two day's sail from the former place. Before we left St. Thomas, I purchased a case of Hollands gin, and some bananas, from which I eat and drank freely and was soon seized again with the yellow fever. I now began to feel that my voyage of life was nearly ended, when the thoughts of home—my past sinful life—and my eternal destiny, all crowded upon my mind with such force, that for a time my situation became very alarming. The captain ordered a dose of calomel, which I took without having any visible effect, when I was under the disagreeable necessity of swallowing about a pint of sweet oil; this caused the excrescence to pass my bowels, which was as black as tar. The captain ordered the mate to have me removed out of the cabin, and placed down into the hold of the vessel among the ballast; here I became quite delirious, and finally crawled upon deck, when the men, moved by sympathy, advised my cruel captain to allow them to take charge of me, which he did. They laid my mattress on the fore-castle deck, and after fixing an awning over me, I laid there until we arrived at the port of Myaguerz. On the arrival of the vessel at this place, the captain went on shore, and brought with him



the American consul, and a Spanish physician, who on examination pronounced me dangerously ill, and advised the captain to smuggle me ashore in the night, so that the authorities of the town might not suspect that the vessel had the fever on board, which was done that night. Before lowering me into the boat, I asked for my Bible, which was handed me, when we proceeded to the shore. To disguise my illness, I was obliged to walk to the place which was prepared for me between two men, where after a short time we arrived.

I was carried into a house which had the appearance to me, similar to an American barn, laid upon a bed, and on the following morning, was visited by the doctor, who ordered my nurse (an old Spanish woman) to lay two blisters on the inside of my thighs, which was done, and internal remedies applied ; in a few days my fever took a turn, I began to grow better, and in the course of three weeks, I was able to go on board. During my illness, I was visited by a number of Spanish creole ladies daily, who were also catholics, and whose hearts sympathised with the young American, who was far removed from his native country, and in a land of strangers. They would try to comfort me by their assurances that I would



get well, and be permitted to visit my native land ; and frequently when the old lady was dressing my blisters, they would bath my face with cologne, to keep me from fainting. I was also visited by a Spanish gentleman, who told me not to want for anything, and that his purse was at my command. This hospitality from Spaniards I did not expect, as my mind, in early life, had been very much prejudiced against that nation, by different writers, who had represented them as a cruel barbarous people ; but I found them during my stay in this place, a noble, generous, and warm-hearted race. After I got entirely well, I went on board of my vessel, and found they were taking in a cargo of molasses, which was brought on board by the natives in large boats, and lest I should sicken my reader of the article, I will forbear to give the particulars of what I saw into it at this time. After our vessel was loaded, I made a purchase of some of the natives, of one hundred cocoanuts, and a few kegs of tamarinds, which I brought home with me. All things being in readiness, we set sail for our native land, having fair wind and a good stiff breeze, we made a rapid passage, and on the 12th day from the time we left the island of Porto Rico, we came to an anchor at the

Quarantine ground, where my parents resided. When the Health officer's boat came on board, I was informed by the doctor that my father was lying sick with inflammatory rheumatism. The captain gave his consent for me to go on shore, I accordingly dressed myself in my best bib and tucker, and went ashore in the doctor's boat. My parents greeted me with joy on my safe return, and immediately informed me that the cholera was raging in the city of New York.

I told my father I was obliged to go to the city that day with the vessel, when he advised me to proceed home immediately as soon as the vessel was made fast. I went down with my brother to see Captain Wood, the custom house boarding officer, who at my request kindly allowed me to bring my tamarinds and cocoanuts on shore, which my brother did, leaving me on board to assist in carrying the brig to New York. The health officer having previously examined our vessel and crew, consented that we might proceed to the city that day, which we did, and after a few hours, our sails were all furled, and our vessel made fast to the dock. On demanding my wages of the captain, he refused to pay me, assigning as a reason that he had expended it all in defraying

my expenses during my illness in the West Indies. After making enquiry of my shipmates where they were going to board, I took my bed and clothing and went home ; on informing my father of the treatment of the captain while in the West Indies, and also his refusal to pay me my wages, he became quite angry—gave me five dollars to come to the city, but instead of doing as my father desired, I went on a spree, and kept drunk until my money was gone, by which time the captain had eloped with his vessel, and I was cheated out of my hard-earned wages. I returned home and told my father that I had lost the money he gave me, and that the vessel had sailed. About two or three weeks after this, I came to the city with William Freeland, one of my old schoolmates, and before our return home that day, he was seized with the cholera, and during the night his generous spirit took its flight, I trust, to the land of blessedness. The next day I assisted in laying his lifeless remains in a coffin, when he was deposited in the narrow house, appointed for all living. This circumstance affected me very seriously, and to drown my sorrow, I took to the cup, and during the afternoon, I confess it with shame, became quite intoxicated from the effects of the

accursed poison. On going to my home I found my dear mother writhing in agony with the cholera. This was on the sixth day of August, 1832; my father and youngest sister were seized with the direful disease on the fourth day after my mother was taken. Two doctors were in attendance the most of the time with my mother; and deeming it advisable to have my father removed to the hospital, where he could have good attention, it was accordingly done, and he placed in the captain's ward under proper nurses. The physicians did everything that was necessary to cure my parents and sister, but they were only successful with the latter. My mother died on the fourteenth day of the month, and was buried on the fifteenth; my eldest sister, a beautiful young woman, was taken ill with the disease on coming from the grave of my mother, and died the following morning. My father was not made acquainted with the death of my eldest sister at all, and was only informed of the death of my mother, on Saturday the eighteenth instant; he also died that evening, and was buried the next morning, followed by a large concourse of friends, and his little orphan children. He lived respected, and died lamented by all who knew his worth.



Reader, while I pen these lines, my heart swells with grief, and my eyes are suffused with tears, when I look back upon the death-bed scene of my fond and doting parents, and beloved sister, now fifteen years gone by. It may not be amiss to state what were my feelings under those trying circumstances. While I stood over my dying mother, I remembered my acts of disobedience, and the many tears I caused her to shed during the former part of my life, on account of my waywardness ; and when her pure spirit left its frail tenement, I felt as though my heart would burst with grief, during that night and the following day. My worthy and esteemed friends, Mrs. Jane Ann Martin, my cousin Mrs. Turner, and Mrs. Griswold, were present and soothed her dying moments ; may I ever cherish their memory with gratitude and respect, for their noble and generous conduct on this occasion. On the following morning after my eldest sister was taken with the disease, those kind friends whom I have just named had become weary for want of rest, I was advised to go into the country a distance of five miles, to get my cousin to come and take care of the family. I accordingly went, but she refused to come, fearing she might take the disease and



die. While returning home in the evening, just after I had passed the spot where the mortal remains of my mother were deposited, I cast my eyes down the road, and beheld a funeral procession ; on coming up to it, imagine my surprise dear reader, when I beheld the hearse and a number of carriages, in two of which were my brothers and sisters clad in their habiliments of mourning, and weeping ready to break their hearts for the loss of their beloved sister, of whose death, up to this time I remained perfectly ignorant. I joined in the procession, and witnessed the remains of my once beautiful sister, deposited in the silent mansions of the dead. We returned home to our desolate abode, when I began to feel as though I should soon follow my dear father ; nearly all the time on Friday and Saturday I was at his bedside, and oh ! how I longed to unfold to him the secrets of my mind, and humbly ask his forgiveness ; but he was too sick to hear it, and the doctors had forbid me talking to him. I took my last farewell of him on Saturday evening, and on the following morning, I repaired to his room to ascertain how he was, when, on entering the door, I saw him stretched a lifeless corpse. For a moment the blood chilled in my veins ; and while I gazed

upon his lifeless remains in the coffin, with his eyes wide open, I began to imagine he was not dead, but by placing my hand upon his pale, cold, clammy face, my hopes vanished ; when I cried out in the agony of my soul, “ Oh ! my God take me also, and leave me no longer to suffer upon thy footstool.” But this request was not granted, as my cup of sorrow was not yet filled. After the funeral, we were all removed from the house, to get rid of the infection, into the upper hospital, and remained there for a few days, until it was arranged what disposition should be made of the eight orphan children that were left behind, without a parent’s care. My eldest brother was provided for ; as for myself, my friends were all gone when my parents were dead. My brother, next to me, and two little sisters, six and seven years of age, were taken to Newburgh, to reside with a rich uncle ; my sister, about nine years old, was sent to New Brunswick, to reside with a cousin of my father’s. My brother David, about ten years old, remained with Mr. Simonson at the Quarantine ; and my sister Rachel, who was the baby, was taken to my uncle’s in New York, where she remained until I was married, when I took her to live with me. In this manner they

were all disposed of. From this time I began to realize my lonely situation ; sad and cast down, I went to Newburgh, where I remained a short time, and worked at my trade, but not with much success. I at length came to New York, where my brother procured me a situation with a Mr. West, to learn the grate and fender business. But here I was like the dove sent out from Noah's Ark, I could find for a time no resting place. I left this place, and entered on board a Pilot boat, for the purpose of learning the piloting business, where I remained for about seven months ; during which time, I occasionally went to the Mariners' church in Roosevelt-street, at which place I gave my heart up to God, and entered once more in the service of my Divine Master. Being surrounded by unholy influences on board of the boat, I concluded I would abandon my occupation, and try to live on shore. Having formed an acquaintance with a good man by the name of Carpenter, I told him what I determined to do, when he informed me that he was going to open a flour store, and should want a clerk, I offered my services, which he accepted, and employed me at a moderate salary. I remained with him about thirteen months, during which time I fell in love with an

amiable, and lovely young woman ; the daughter of a distinguished naval officer, who died in consequence of a wound he received while defending his country from the invasion of a foreign foe. On the fifteenth day of May 1834, we were married by the Rev. A. R. Martin, my old Pastor, who came to the city on purpose to perform the ceremony, which was done in the presence of a large number of my friends and hers, at the house of her mother. I forgot to name that the church excluded me after the death of my mother. But on my return to the paths of rectitude, a few months previous to this time, I was fully restored again to their fellowship. On the evening after my marriage, I set up the family altar, and prayed with my wife, which I continued to do whenever I enjoyed religion. My salary being small, which I received from my employer, at the time of my marriage, and some other circumstances, induced me to leave my situation. We boarded with my mother-in-law for about three months, during the honey-moon, and finally concluded to go to house keeping ; my mother-in-law furnished our house with everything necessary for the purpose ; when we left her, and became the king and queen of our domicil ; although a humble cot, yet it was a happy



one, for it was in this place we quaffed the unalloyed sweets of connubial love. A short time before I commenced house-keeping, I engaged with E. Kellogg, as a clerk in the wholesale grocery business, where I remained during one year, in which time nothing remarkable occurred, except the birth of my first child, a lovely daughter, who was born March 5th, 1835. Having then a small salary, I began to find it inadequate for the support of my family, I therefore concluded to go to work at my trade, and engaged with Thomas O. Buckmaster, with whom I remained nearly two years. About this time the journeymen struck for wages, and I was obliged to leave my place, much to my regret, and that of my employer. I then went to work for J. Ayres in Hudson-street, where I made money as fast as I wanted to ; at length we filled his shop full of goods, and I was obliged to look out for another job. I then went to work in the Bowery, with A Underhill, where I worked a few weeks, and finally concluded to go into business for myself out to Newtown. Having sold the little property left me by my father, I accordingly embarked in this enterprise, where I remained happy with the church, and prosperous in business for about nine months.



Finally my old friend Buckmaster came out to see me, and offered me five hundred and twenty dollars a year, if I would come to the city and take charge of a wholesale trunk store, which he had started at No. 8, Old Slip. The bait was too inviting; I could not refuse his offer. I engaged with him and left my family in Newtown, and had my store kept open until I finally had an auction, and sold out at a sacrifice of about one-half what my stock was worth. My second daughter was born before we moved from this place, March 19th, 1837.

We moved to the city in May, and during this year my wife embraced the Christian religion, and united, with myself, to Elder Benedict's church, in Stanton-street, New York. At the close of the year, in consequence of my employer being unsuccessful in business, he concluded to close up his store in Old Slip, when I was thrown out of business, and did not do anything again for nearly six months, during which time I spent the last dollar I was worth in the world. I finally procured a situation in a pill-doctor's office, in Chatham-street, at \$4. per week. I staid with him about four weeks, during which time he increased my wages to \$6. Having a great aver-

sion to quackery, I concluded to quit here as soon as a good opportunity should offer ; when, through the instrumentality of a merchant, I obtained a situation with Mr. E. Withington, a very fine old Baptist gentleman, who carries on a very extensive business in the manufacture of coffee and spices, where I remained nearly five years.

Shortly after I engaged with him, I removed, through his persuasion, from the city to Williamsburgh, with my family, about the middle of September, 1838, when a few Baptists got together, and through the liberal pecuniary aid of Mr. Withington and other Baptist friends, at length succeeded in forming a church. Owing to a little disagreement between myself and the preacher, I was not constituted with them, but joined their number shortly after. In a very short period, I was elected clerk, and remained in this situation, labouring for the cause of God and his church, until the spring of 1844, when I was excluded from the fellowship, in consequence of having embraced and practised the science of animal and phreno-magnetism. From this time persecution began to rage against me, which was brought about in the following manner : Previous to my exclusion from the body, a girl, by the name of

Jane Winter, who was also a member of the church, had become somewhat infatuated with the Millerite doctrines, in consequence of which, she neglected the meetings of her own church. I met her one evening (on my return from Brooklyn, where I had been delivering a lecture) at the Grand-street ferry, about eleven o'clock, in company with some Millerites. I immediately commenced conversation with her about her conduct in leaving the church ; and told her very pointedly that she was then under discipline, and would be excluded if she did not return and make the necessary acknowledgments. The boat having stopped running at the Grand-street ferry, we walked up to Houston-street, and there waited some time for the boat to come over. She went into the ferry-house first, I remained outside for a short time, and on going in I found her crying. Thinking I had wounded her feelings by talking to her so pointedly, I seated myself beside her, and commenced conversation upon the subject of animal magnetism. I told her I had engaged to deliver two lectures before the Newtown Lyceum, but that I found it very difficult to procure a subject, and then asked her if she would accompany me on the evening appointed. She partly refused ;

but upon my assurance that my intentions were perfectly honorable, she yielded a partial consent, but reserved her ultimate decision until the following morning.

The next day, at my store in Fulton-street, I was informed that a story was in circulation in Williamsburgh, that I had made improper proposals to Miss Winter, and that I had attempted to seduce her, she having told the story to a slandering negro, who, in a very short time, set the whole village to talking about it. I became very much enraged on hearing this report, and came over to the village for the express purpose of having her arrested; but on advising with one of our deacons upon the subject, he begged me to bring the matter first before the church. On Wednesday evening of the same week the church met, and on the committees rising, they reported that they had had an interview with Miss Winter, and that she had promised them she would return and occupy her place. At this juncture of the proceedings, I rose from my seat and offered my resignation as clerk, and demanded a letter for myself and wife to unite with the Pierrepont-street Baptist church, Brooklyn; remarking, at the same time, that I would not belong to any



church where such a lying trollop was permitted to remain. I do not think, knowing my character so well, that they suspected for one moment the story she had circulated about me was true ; but having called her a liar in the presence of the whole body, they threw me immediately under the discipline of the church, and appointed a committee to investigate her character for veracity. A short time after this, I was called to the South on business, and they, taking advantage of my absence, excluded me. On my return home, a few weeks after this circumstance, my wife informed me about the action of the church, which had a tendency to rouse my combativeness, and created a disposition to avenge my injured character by attempting to tear the church to pieces. I found, on inquiry, that a certain clique had excluded me, when there were very few members present, which caused many of my brethren to feel grieved at their course. A number of the members left in consequence of it, when we had a meeting, and consulted with reference to forming a new church. After meeting a number of times for worship in a private house, I came to the conclusion, upon calm reflection, that I was pursuing a very wrong course, and concluded I would



not meet with them again, so the enterprise was finally abandoned. I remained out of the church for about three months, and finally was received back after the difficulty was amicably adjusted between Miss Winter and myself.

I will not dwell on this subject, lest I should weary the patience of my reader ; but will return and relate a few things which occurred while I was employed by Mr. Withington. It is well known to most of my readers, that he is an extensive manufacturer ; and it is also a well-known fact, that his manner of doing business is strictly honest. He is also noted for his peculiar eccentricities and extended benevolence. After I had been with him not quite one year, my third child was born, on the 11th of August, 1839. I had a great deal of writing and talking to perform during my stay, for which I was well paid. On the 6th of January, 1841, my eldest son (the fourth child) was born. While with Mr. Withington, my intellect was taxed to a very great extent, so that I was enabled to perform an immense amount of mental as well as physical labour ; and by this means I became very ambitious, which subjected me at times to derision from my eccentric employer. He would some-

times say to me, "Oh ! if you would only dismiss your pride, you would rise right up, like a kite." At other times he would say, "No sun can shine when you shine : the great luminary extinguishes the light of all those little luminaries that revolve around it." And sometimes becoming displeased with my assumption of authority, he would exclaim, "There can be but one Cæsar in Rome." Many more of his sayings I could relate ; but, for want of time and space, shall be obliged to omit them.

After having remained with him nearly five years—comfortable and happy the most of the time—through some little misunderstanding between us, the fault being mostly my own, we concluded to separate. But now, let me inform my reader, he is about eighty years of age, still doing a great business, and, should I survive him, I will ever cherish his memory with respect. I left him on the 23rd of May, 1843, and entered into co-partnership with E. Welch, his grandson, in the same kind of business.

Notwithstanding Mr. Withington gave me at the rate of \$1,000 during a portion of the last year I was with him, and a good salary previous to that time, and very frequently a handsome pre-

sent, yet I did not save any money, owing to my having a large family. I consequently was obliged to enter the firm with Mr. Welch without a dollar, and he, by misfortune, was several hundred dollars worse than nothing. These facts, however, were not known to our merchants, and believing the concern perfectly solvent, and knowing us both to be active business men, we obtained an extensive credit, and did a large and profitable business.

Not being satisfied in doing well, I wanted to do a little better ; I therefore opened a tea store in Williamsburgh, and in the course of the year I found it to be an unprofitable concern. I very wisely, after consulting with Mr. Welch upon the subject, concluded to shut it up, which I did. I now devoted my whole attention to the business of the firm, until January, 1844 ; when, unfortunately for me, the subject of animal magnetism began to be discussed in our village, and the whole community became magnetic mad. Being naturally of a very inquiring mind, although a sceptic in many things, I came to the conclusion to go and witness Professor Johnson's exploits. The lectures were delivered in the Bethel Baptist church, of which I was then a member. Being

met, one morning, by one of the brethren, he inquired of me what I thought of animal magnetism? I told him I looked upon it as one of the greatest humbugs of the age. He assured me he could convince me to the contrary, as he had magnetized Mrs. G——. I told him I was like the blind man—I would sooner see it than hear tell of it. Feeling anxious to remove the doubts from my mind in regard to the truths of the science, he invited me to go with him on that evening, which invitation I accepted. The young professor being engaged in the early part of the evening, we did not meet till about half-past eleven o'clock, when we immediately went to the residence of Mr. Granville, the sexton of the Baptist church, who had by this time also become a professor.

He had, before our arrival, retired to rest; notwithstanding which, we awoke him. When he came to the door, he said, addressing himself to me, “I know what you have come for; you are skeptical in regard to the truth of animal magnetism; but I can satisfy you.” Upon this assurance, he awoke his little daughter, and after I had fully convinced myself that she was awake, I told him to proceed.

He then placed her in a chair, and after making a few passes downwards with his hands, in about three minutes he pronounced her fully magnetized. He then made her arm perfectly rigid, so that I could not bend it without injuring the child. After the performance of a few other experiments, I began to think there was something in it; and for the purpose of testing further the truth of the so-called science of animal and phreno-magnetism, I invited the parties to appear at my house on the following Monday evening. They accordingly came, in connexion with a number of others whom I had invited,—about thirty-six persons in all. Mrs. G—— and her daughter were both magnetized, by Professors Jacobs and Granville, and a number of experiments were tried by the gentlemen upon the subjects, in which they were successful.

I told the father, before he awoke the child, I wished to test the truth of the phrenological experiments; remarking, at the same time, that I did not believe that phenomena could be produced in any one that I had witnessed in Professor Johnson's subject, a few evenings before. After taking the finger of the magnetiser, and placing it on the organ of tune, she began to sing, when



I exclaimed, "There is no mistake about it!" Keeping one finger on tune, and placing another on veneration, she began to sing a beautiful hymn. Keeping my finger on veneration, she commenced praying; on combativeness, she showed a disposition to fight. Without entering any further into an explanation of the phrenological experiments which were performed that evening, I will simply inform my reader that they were accompanied by great applause from the audience.

During the course of the week, some of my friends waited on me, and expressed a wish that I should deliver a public lecture on the subject. I consented, and made my *debut* a few evenings after this request. As many of my readers are familiar with what took place on that evening, I will not detail the particulars, but will only say, that the experiments were mostly satisfactory to some, while others pronounced it a humbug. From that evening, I was styled "Professor" by those who knew me, and consequently was at the beck and call of almost every one throughout all the region round about Williamsburgh.

I delivered two lectures in Brooklyn, shortly after this, which brought me still farther into notice. The public newspapers got to quarrelling

about me ; some styled me a humbug, while others lauded me to the skies, for the developments I had made to the public, in convincing some of the most skeptical of the truths of the mysterious science. I went to Paterson and lectured, and last of all, to Newtown, when my difficulties began with the church, the particulars of which I have already given you.

Having now spent nearly two months writing, lecturing, and experimenting on the subject, I came to the conclusion to abandon my professional career, and once more resume my business duties. And in order to get rid of the excitement under which I was labouring, I came to the determination to go south ; after informing my partner of my intentions, I made arrangements with Captain Williams, of the brig *David Duffel*, to take me and my brother Charles, together with some articles of merchandize with him to Wilmington, N. C. We sailed, and in a few days arrived at the port of our destination. Having taken with me various letters of recommendation to different merchants in that place, it did not take me long to become acquainted ; and during my stay, I was hospitably entertained by different individuals, most of whom were Baptists. By the request of

the Pastor, and a number of the brethren of the Baptist church, I led a religious meeting, for the poor down-trodden slaves ; and I can assure my reader, during that afternoon, a happier time I never enjoyed. On the following evening a fire occurred in the town, close by where I was tarrying for the night, and while the family were engaged in evening devotions, they were suddenly startled by the noise which the slaves were making in the kitchen. On going out, we saw the fire bursting out of a house, when Mr. Paterson exclaimed, "It is brother Simpson's house." We immediately rushed to the spot, and found the family, on breaking the door, open were still wrapt in slumber, unconscious of their situation. We awoke them, told them their house was on fire. when they seized their clothes, and rushed wildly into the street ; in a very short time for the want of water, three houses were consumed, which belonged to three poor Odd Fellows. I intended to depart the following morning, but concluded to remain one night longer in the place, for the purpose of attending a meeting at the Odd Fellows' Lodge, which I did, and there shut out from the world, I saw the noble and generous spirit of the members, moved by sympathy for the losses sus-

tained by their brethren on the previous evening by fire. They subscribed among themselves, together with the little mite contributed by brother Williams and myself, who were members of King's County Lodge, a sufficient amount to build the whole three houses. And here, gentle reader, let me remind you that the Order of Odd Fellows is one of the best Institutions in the known world. They feed the hungry, clothe the naked, supply the wants of the destitute, comfort the sick and the dying ; in a word, they conform to all the requirements of the blessed Saviour, who when on earth went about good doing. Their principles are friendship, love and truth ; first to the brethren of the order, and then to all mankind. Having some business in Washington City, I concluded to return home by land, and accordingly set out the following morning by the railroad. We travelled through a section of country to Welden, and arrived at that place in the night. Taking another train of cars, we set out again, and in the morning we passed through the towns of Richmond, Petersburg, and about ten o'clock, we arrived at Fredericksburgh, at which place we took the steamboat for Washington City. On going on board, we met the coffin which contain-



ed the remains of the immortal Gillmore, who lost his life on board of the *Princeton*, by the bursting of Commodore Stockton's big gun, which event will ever be remembered by the people of this country, as a number of noble lives were sacrificed.

We passed up the beautiful Potomac, passed Mount Vernon, where the remains of the Father of our Country, George Washington, are deposited, and soon we arrived at the capital city.

I put up at Brown's hotel, and immediately proceeded to the house of Governor Van Ness, and after stating my business, we took a carriage and repaired immediately to the pension office; after transacting our business, we set out for the capitol at the head of Pennsylvania Avenue; on arriving at this place he conducted me into the Supreme Court room, where I found the immortal Story was presiding as judge. After listening for a short time to his honour, who was then speaking, I left this place, and proceeded to the Senate chamber, where they were just going into secret session; shut out from this, I then proceeded to the chamber of the House of Representatives, where I found them in session, and remained there during the most of the afternoon. I then went into the



Rotunda, where is contained some of the most beautiful paintings in the known world, chiefly painted from life, and representing the various battles of the revolution, together with the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers, and the marriage of Pocahontas.

The next day I called on a number of merchants who were in the habit of buying goods of me, and after finishing all my business in Washington, I left by the cars for Baltimore, where I arrived in the dusk of the evening, and put up at Barnum's Hotel, one of the best in the United States. On the following morning I called on a number of my customers, and after finishing my business with them, I left that afternoon by the cars for Philadelphia, at which place I arrived in the night, and on the following morning took a stroll around for the purpose of viewing the beautiful quaker city. About eight o'clock I took the railroad train for New York, at which place I arrived about two o'clock, and came immediately over home; on entering the house, my wife immediately informed me of the action of the church, which circumstance I have before alluded to. I was much surprised on going to my store the next morning, to find my business in a deranged

state, my partner having entered into another business, leaving me to shoulder the coffee and spice business, while he attended to his other matters.

For a short time things went on very well, but in the course of two or three months, I became restless, nervous, and dissatisfied, finally I ceased to act, and determined to leave the concern ; for three months I was laid up with the blues, after which we dissolved partnership on the eighth day of September, 1844. In a few days after this, I commenced business on my own account, with a small capital of about \$700. My store was located in Jones Lane, near Front-street; I employed a young man for a bookkeeper, and took my brother-in-law in foreman, and had business the most of the time to keep ten hands employed. But my career in this place was destined to be short ; I had not been in business more than two months before the presidential campaign commenced, when I was carried away by the political excitement ; I had my combativeness aroused at a Native American mass meeting, where I was mobbed, the particulars of which the most of my readers are familiar with, therefore I shall omit to name them. Now for the first time I entered the

political arena, and commenced spouting politics in good earnest, and continued to do so till the victory was gained. After the excitement died away, like Alexander, I sat down and wept that there were no more victories to gain ; from this time, I fell into a morbid, melancholy state, and was rendered unfit to attend to any kind of business for nearly four months, during which time, my business was conducted by my bookkeeper and brother-in-law. In about six months after I commenced, my bookkeeper informed me that he could not get funds to pay my notes ; I became alarmed at this intelligence, and told him to take an account of stock, balance the accounts, and bring me over a balance sheet. This he did, when to my surprise, I found I had sunk all my capital, and was three hundred dollars worse than nothing. Now for the first time in my life I was obliged to fail, I therefore, after giving my creditors a statement of my affairs, made an assignment of all my effects, except my furniture, for the benefit of my creditors, making a preferment to my assignee, which latter act I have had reason to regret ever since, as all my goods were sacrificed in such a way, that the most of my creditors got nothing out of it at the time ; but since, I have been enabled

to pay the most of them one hundred cents on the dollar. My mortification attending this failure was so great, that I desired to hide myself in the caves and dens of the earth, but this I was not permitted to do.

Mr. D. E. M., a particular friend, called on me one day, and expressed a wish that I should go West with him. I heartily complied with his wishes and went, and in about two weeks I returned a well man. On my return, my old friend W., and Colonel W., of our village, advised me to go into the real estate business. I took their advice, opened a land office, and in about three months after I commenced, I made about \$1,400, during which time my wife received \$600 from the Government. Fortune smiled for a time. My friend Berrien, at my request, deeded her two small lots of land, on which she built a house, which cost \$1,500. She employed her own money in the erection of this building, which left her in debt, owing to its having been blown down, about \$1,000.

Just before this accident happened to the house, I used up my spare money in paying off old debts, and erecting a stone foundation on two lots of land, situated on the corner of South Third

and First Streets, on which I purposed to build a large factory. This scheme, I afterwards found, to my sorrow, was a visionary one, and it had a tendency to floor me completely. I began to grow melancholy and sad, and in a short time I was down on the broad of my back with the "blues," and remained in this situation about four months. When my worthy and esteemed friend, Colgate Gilbert, commenced the coffee and spice business at my old stand, No. 93 Fulton-street, New York, he employed me as clerk, at ten dollars per week; but notwithstanding all his kindness to me, I was restless and dissatisfied, when I remembered the ingratitude of those I had befriended in former days, and the disrespect in which I was held by my old bookkeeper, who built up a business on the ruins of my fall. Not satisfied with obtaining my business, he and my brother-in-law circulated stories about me, which tended to affect my reputation for honest and sobriety. Through their instrumentality, I was turned out of the society of the Sons of Temperance, for drinking wine at a "Polk and Dallas" supper, the previous fall, and finally turned out of the church again, in the spring of 1846. I remained with Mr. Gilbert about three months; and at the ex-



piration of that time, I was induced to buy out a concern in Brooklyn, which scheme I had reason afterwards to regret. The man of whom I purchased the store misrepresented the situation of his affairs to me ; and after I had been in business two months, I found I could not get along, as I had lost the confidence of most of the merchants with whom I had formerly traded, and could not obtain a sufficient amount of credit to enable me to continue business. I therefore determined on quitting here ; and while in the act of moving my stock and fixtures away from the store, I had about \$100 worth of things seized for the previous tenant's rent. A short time after this, my horse, waggon, and harness were seized under a judgment ; and about this time the church withdrew the hand of fellowship from me, as I before named, the particulars of which I am obliged to omit for want of time and space. I then commenced the land business again, but did not do anything at it, owing to other persons having gone into it, and there being little or no sale for property. I finally became discouraged ; and on the 6th of April I was taken with the quinsey sore throat, and from that time I shut myself up in the house with the "blues," which rendered me,

nearly four months, partially insane ; during which time my wife supported the family by keeping boarders. A circumstance occurred about the latter part of July, which I feel in duty bound to state in justification of my wife. My mind was filled with jealousy towards her, for no other reason under heaven than that I thought she devoted more of her time and attention to the boarders than she did to me : this caused me to feel very unpleasant towards her. Having been to the city one day, she came home in the evening quite tired. I was sitting in the Boston rocker, in the basement. On my rising from the chair, she ran and sat down in it. Not relishing the manner in which she had deprived me of my seat, I told her she should get out of it, which she refused to do. I then took hold of her and tried to pull her out, when she exclaimed, “ You hurt me.” At this instant one of the boarders stepped up, and ordered me, in a very peremptory manner, to let go of her, which I refused to do. He then [gave me a shove, when, in return, I gave him a blow which blacked his eye, and which, I trust, will enable him to remember never to interfere between man and wife ; but for which I am sorry, as I suppose he did it from a good mo-

tive. This created quite an uproar, both in-doors and outside in the street. The boarders went up stairs to go to bed, and my wife also retired to her room. The thought struck me for a moment that the old rocking chair had made a great deal of mischief, and I determined to deprive it of existence. I accordingly procured an axe, went into the basement, and in a few moments there was nothing left of it but the broken fragments. This alarmed all who were in the house, and one of them went out for an officer, supposing I was raving mad. I immediately suspected their intentions, went up stairs into the front parlor, and lay down upon a bolster and pillow which I procured from the back room. I took care, however, to secure the door ; so that, when the officer came, he should be unable to gain admittance. I did not sleep any all night, and in the morning two doctors were called in, who, on examination, pronounced me insane. I very much doubt, however, the correctness of their judgment ; as I recollect distinctly everything that occurred while they were there and after they retired to the basement, the squire being in attendance for the purpose of consulting with them, when a writ was issued for my arrest, and served on the following

morning. I was taken into a waggon, accompanied by two officers (both brother Odd Fellows), and of course they felt a lively sympathy for their unfortunate brother, whom they were about to incarcerate in a lunatic asylum. On leaving home, my mind was impressed with the idea that I should never return to the embraces of a fond wife and five little children. This thought so affected me, that my heart swelled with grief, and my eyes were suffused with tears. On my way to the asylum, Brother Guischard would occasionally speak to me, and try to arouse me from my train of reflections ; but my mind was too much absorbed by thought, so that my tongue could not perform its functions. On our arrival at Flatbush, the superintendent, after examining the documents brought by the officers for my commitment, pronounced them informal. He would not receive me into the institution ; so the officers were obliged to bring me home again ; and on returning, my pride was mortified exceedingly to have them carry me through the streets of Williamsburgh, which they were obliged to do, not being able to find Justice Lycraft, who drew out my commitment. I was also afraid lest they might put me in the cells until the following



morning. After searching about the village for some time, exposing me to the gaze of a curious public, they at length took me home. I had not been there long before Colonel Westlake came and took me out riding with him, talked to me all the time we were together, and on my return, told my wife that there was no necessity for them to put me into the asylum, and that, if he could have the charge of me, he would cure me in less than two weeks, as all I wanted was air and exercise to make me a well man. I must give this gentleman the credit of knowing more about me, and what was necessary for my cure, than those two distinguished physicians who pronounced me insane two days previously. The colonel's assurances had a happy effect on my mind, and from that time I began to mend, and in the course of a few days I was enabled to go down to my office and attend to business. Ah! when will the time come when physicians, ministers, and people will give themselves up to the study of nature?—to the study of man as he exists, with reference to his mental and physical organization? Unless they do this, they never can acquit themselves of the requirements of the Eternal God.

Having now become entirely well, and my



business not being good, I was obliged to seek diversion in a variety of ways. Occasionally I would go to the theatre, and sometimes on fishing excursions; and by these means, connected with an investigation of scientific subjects, I was enabled to find ample food for the mind. During the period intervening between the time the church excluded me and my birth-day, which occurred on the 11th day of October following, I ceased not to thunder my anathemas against them for the injustice I received from their hands. Through their instrumentality my mind became disordered, and persecutions commenced against me which were unjust and cruel. I was charged by the more vicious portion of the community with being a dishonest man, a liar, swearer, drunkard, infidel, and adulterer; all of which charges, my heavenly Father knows, are entirely without a shadow of foundation. Except once, I never intentionally wronged any man out of one cent during my whole life. I never told a lie to injure a mortal man; for a liar and hypocrite I despise from my very soul. I never, to my recollection, took the name of God in vain more than twenty times in my life. I have got drunk, but only occasionally, as my reader can see by

looking back upon my past life." I am not an infidel, although I have my peculiar views of the Scriptures, which I have gathered from nature ; and as for being an adulterer, my well-known character for love of virtue gives the lie to the charge ! All those things are against me ; but, thank God, they have not overwhelmed me. Notwithstanding, they have prejudiced the minds of the public against me, so that I cannot get employment in such an occupation as would be desirable ; and, consequently, I am stigmatized as a lazy man by some ; while others will say, " What a pity it is a man of your talent should idle away his time in the manner you are doing !" and by all these circumstances, poverty is now staring me and my large dependant family in the face, and God only knows what will yet be the end. Since I was thrust out of the Baptist church, I have attended the Universalists, and have listened to their preaching with great satisfaction. My mind is now fully confirmed in the belief of the doctrine of the universal restoration of all mankind to the enjoyment of blessedness ; notwithstanding I also believe that man will be punished according to the deeds done in the body. As far as my knowledge of them as a society is

concerned, I have found them social and humane. Instead of despising the poor unfortunate victim of sin, they pity him. Their ears are ever open to the cries of suffering humanity, and their hearts are moved with friendly sympathy. In a word, they supply the wants of the destitute, comfort the afflicted, offer consolation to the sick and the dying, and preach and practice the law of benevolence and love ; all of which, I think, is in perfect conformity to the requirements of our blessed Redeemer.

Having now arrived to the age of thirty-two, and as I promised to give my readers thirty-two years of the life of an adventurer, I will now inform you that the eccentric genius of whom I have been writing is no other than your humble author,

JOHN H. DRAKE.

## CONCLUSION.



WHEN a man is charged with having committed an offence against the laws of the land, he is arraigned at the bar of justice, and tried by a jury of his country. After the witnesses are all examined, the counsel on the part of the prosecution, and also in behalf of the prisoner, sum up the case; the latter pleading most earnestly in his behalf. The judge then delivers his charge to the jury; who, after an impartial investigation of the evidence, for and against the prisoner, bring in a verdict of "guilty" or "not guilty."

Now, having been tried by an evil spirit all my life time, before a jury of the world, many of them have passed sentence of condemnation upon me, without allowing the mighty Counsellor, the meek and lowly Jesus, to sum up the evidence; and the great Judge of the quick and dead to deliver his charge before an assembled universe; and if found guilty, to pass sentence upon me, that I might be punished according to the deeds done in the body.

Considering that such decisions of my enemies are premature, and cruelly unjust, and knowing as I do that I cannot avail myself of the advocacy of the eternal Counsellor and Judge, I claim the privilege of summing up the evidences of my checkered and sinful life, and will then present this little book to the world ; who, after a careful perusal of its contents, I trust will at least throw over me the mantle of charity, and cease their cruel persecutions.

Reader, in viewing the character of your humble author, you behold him standing forth in bold relief to an assembly of human beings, as a faithful exhibition of the true character of fallen man. In early life you find him pursuing his juvenile studies, preparatory to launching forth into the ocean of life ; during which time peace and contentment reigned supreme in that bosom, while youthful simplicity and innocence marked his youthful course. With a pure and uncontaminated mind, he enters upon the business of life, in order to procure for himself an honest livelihood. In a very short time after this, you see him surrounded by circumstances by which he is drawn into the vortex of sin. At the age of fifteen years, he sees his youthful folly, forsakes for a time the fascina-



ling charms of the world, and enters for a brief period the Christian ranks, where you find him enjoying the light of a Saviour's reconciled countenance. One year rolls its round, and circumstances change, when you find him drawn by the allurements and temptations by which he is surrounded, into the vortex of misery and degradation. You then find him roaming over the mighty ocean, and distant climes, until at length his roving career is partially checked by the death of his fond and doting parents, which circumstance has a tendency, in a brief period, to induce him to forsake the paths of sin and folly, and be enabled once more to bask under the bright and effulgent beams of a Saviour's reconciled countenance ; during which time you see him engaged in various pursuits, and exposed to suffering and trials, which have a tendency to keep him humble, and enable him to pursue the paths of rectitude. At the close of his eventful life of thirty-two years, circumstances induce him to enter the professional career, where you find him exposing himself and his professional views to the gaze of a curious public, willing to sacrifice everything, without receiving any emolument to satisfy the skeptical, and convince the most obdurate minds of the truths he

has embraced, and for which he is obliged to submit to the scorn and contumely of a cold and selfish world, and through which circumstance, he is reduced from a state of affluence and happiness with his family, to a state of indigence and poverty. Having, in a very brief manner, summed up, without referring to the many pleasing incidents, and the numerous hair-breadth escapes of my life, the various occupations in which I have been engaged, and the persecutions I have had to contend with, all of which are given in the foregoing pages, and is no doubt vivid in the recollection of my reader, I will now, in a brief manner, deliver to you my charge, which I trust may make a lasting impression upon your minds, and enable you to shun vice, and pursue the paths of wisdom, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Fellow-citizens, I shall not revert back to the evidences of my life, for the truth of which I appeal to the God of the heavens and the earth to witness, and before whose bar I expect to stand, to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, but will deliver to you a short and impressive charge. Jesus, when on earth, placed an injunction upon the human family, that we should

love God and our neighbour as ourselves. This should unite us together by peculiar ties, as binding, as enduring, as dear as the ties of consanguinity itself; ties that should link us to each other, in a bright chain of interwoven agency. Thus continually imparting and receiving in manifold reciprocal influences a moral power, the magnitude of which, and its ultimate tendencies, mortal intelligences may faintly imagine, but which eternity alone shall truly reveal. This searching, everywhere permeating influence, is and will be for good or for evil; for us there can be no neutral state, we must act, and our motto should be, "onward and upward."

Time that spins so softly and swiftly on, whose quick succeeding years, with their noises, and strifes, and heavy freightage of human woes, and human joys, are sinking so rapidly into the silent depths of the past, hurries us pauselessly along in its irresistible course; not a step can be retraced, not a word recalled, not an action undone. And when we for a moment consider, that in our steps will follow countless thousands, that our word will be taken up, and borne far and near on myriads of tongues, that our actions will impress themselves sooner or later, and with more or less potency,

upon the movements of unnumbered multitudes of our fellow-creatures ; how startling appears our position, how amazing its responsibility, how astounding its results ! From all will be demanded, each one according to his gifts, a final account. Be then but true to your God, and faithful to yourselves, and your professions ; be sincere, real, let your acted life be woof-woven, from your inner spiritual being : dare to think, live, and work in truth, enlist under her banner, go stoutly out, and with the entire might of your undivided being, wage perpetual warfare against vice and immorality, not forgetting however to pity the unfortunate victim of sin. Do this I say, and you will have worthily vindicated your claims to the proud title of men and woman.

Fellow-citizens, mark me ! no matter how punctual you may be in your attendance upon divine worship,—no matter how strictly you may perform the duties religion enjoins,—succour distress, solace sorrow, feed hunger, clothe nakedness, supply, in a word, want in all its woe-stricken phases,—do all this, and the world esteems it much, and it is praiseworthy ;—do all this, I say, and you have scarcely begun to acquit yourselves of the blessed requirements of duty. For what,

after all, is the summing up of all human suffering? Can you any more than die? The heart-broken and poverty-pressed find in death their maximum, at once, of earthly woe and earthly joy. The ministering angel breathes upon them, and straightway, for these down-trodden, hope-lifted ones, the veil of existence is parted asunder, and disembodied spirits ascend, and the seed which did but germinate here, buds, blooms, and exhales its sweets in a more genial clime. No duty has a larger, nobler sense, one more in consonance with right reason, one better responsive to the elevated and elevating teachings of the religion of Jesus Christ;—a meaning, indeed, without the proper understanding of which, and proper adaptation of our conduct thereto, we can never know or experience what are the true principles of the religion taught by Christ, when he was here upon earth, nor profitably sow or reap in its wide and fertile field. We must look to our moral necessities—they are greater than our physical: the former are infinite, the latter finite. Of the latter the consummation is death; of the former—what? Let each of my readers ask solemnly his own soul: the answer will surely bring new light; you will catch some



glimpses of the higher sense, and more just views of the Christian religion.

Fellow-citizens, we have an important mission to perform ; namely, that of working out the moral amelioration of our kind, to whose ultimate destiny, through its sacred instrumentality, we shall and may look forward with a high and cheering faith.

Society never intrinsically retrogrades. Storms and winds may agitate the surface, create eddies and apparent reflux, but the main current, like that of the Father of Waters, rolls unceasingly on.

History, philosophy, the divinity within, all declare it ; religion affirms it : it is an effluence from the infinite Energy, this time-movement of mortality ; and, by a sure progressive law, shall carry society forward until man shall attain the true end and glory of his being.

Understand me, fellow-citizens. The motive force of this forward movement of the nations of the earth, is the moral power regenerate in truth. It is to be sought for in the innermost being of man. It is the one recuperative virtue. The fabled Ganges, taking its source in the heavens, descends upon the grateful earth, and covers all its hills and valleys with the lovely and the

good. Without its presence there can be no real advancement—no permanent improvement in society.

Education—intellectual refinement—whether individual or national, must be permeated by it, else they will come to nought, and soon utterly perish. This is the paramount lesson of all philosophy, of all history. It is traced to the monuments of departed greatness ; it speaks in tones of thunder from the hoary past, and calls loudly for us to set up the moral empire in our own breasts, each of us, and then extend it throughout the sphere of our action over our fellow-beings. Do this, and though we should be cut off in the midst of our days, we shall not have lived in vain. Though the silver cord be snapped, yet shall the melody of such a life mingle itself with the celestial songs that float and flow everlastingly round Him that sits upon the throne. — Though the golden bowl be broken, yet shall the wondrous vital force impress its miraculous influence upon all the countless myriads of created intelligences, through all the cycles of progressive being, until the riplet on the stream of time shall billow a boundless wave about the summit of the measurable all.

I now take my farewell of you for a time ;  
but I trust not for ever, believing, as I do, that  
the final destiny of all mankind will be the uni-  
versal restoration of all created intelligences.



















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